



## Axis Professional Services General Terms and Conditions

### 1 Scope and application.

1.1 The terms and conditions detailed herein (the "GTC") together with any Professional Services Agreement ("PSA") and/or any Statement of Work ("SOW") (collectively the "Agreement"), apply to your ("Customer", "You," or "Your") purchase from Axis of services related to the design, implementation, verification, use and maintenance of an IP Surveillance System involving Axis' network video products or any other services purchased by You and provided by Axis as further detailed in a PSA and/or an SOW ("Professional Services"). Axis and Customer may be referred to herein collectively as the "Parties" and each individually as a "Party".

1.2 "Axis" means the Axis affiliate identified on the quote, order PSA, SOW or invoice, or in the absence of an identified Axis affiliate, Axis Communications AB (corporate registration number 556253-6143, with headquarters at Emdalavägen 14, 223 69 Lund, Sweden).

1.3 In these GTC, the term "IP Surveillance System" means a system that encompasses several or all of the following: IP surveillance cameras; IP Video encoders; Access control systems; Voice over IP equipment; I/O modules; cabling and infrastructure; computer hardware and software; and video analytics.

1.4 Axis is not bound by and hereby expressly rejects, and Customer expressly waives, any terms and conditions in Customer's purchase order or other similar document.

1.5 These GTC shall apply to all SOWs and/or PSAs concluded between the Parties regarding Customer's purchase of Professional Services from Axis. The Parties may amend or modify an executed SOW by a written agreement signed by both Parties.

1.6 In case of any inconsistency or conflict between, on the one side, the provisions of these GTC, and on the other side, any SOW and/or PSA, these GTC shall control and take precedence provided, however, that the terms of an SOW may supersede the terms of these GTC, but only if specifically stated in the SOW and only for Professional Services provided pursuant to that SOW.

1.7 The scope of this Agreement concerns Professional Services (as defined above) only, and this Agreement does not constitute a purchase agreement for products or other services between Axis and Customer. Customer acknowledges that any purchase of Axis products – whether based on product recommendations provided as part of the Professional Services or not – must be made from an authorized Axis' distributor or reseller.

### 2 Customer obligations

Customer acknowledges and agrees that any Professional Services offered by Axis to Customer and the result thereof, will be highly dependent on information supplied by Customer to Axis. Therefore, and as a condition to Axis' obligations under this Agreement, Customer must provide such cooperation and assistance as Axis reasonably requests in connection with the Professional Services. Such cooperation and assistance will include, without limitation, (a) making Customer's personnel available to Axis for consultation, (b) providing such access to Customer's (or Customer's customers) premises, (c) responding promptly to any Axis request to provide direction, information, approvals, authorizations or decisions that are reasonably necessary for Axis to perform Professional Services in accordance with the requirements of this Agreement, and ensure that any information provided is complete and accurate in all material respects and (d) obtaining and maintaining all necessary licenses and consents and comply with all applicable laws, regulations and other requirements of any governmental authority, to the extent that such licenses, consents and law relate to Customer's business, premises, personnel and equipment, in all cases before the date on which the Professional Services are to start and during the Term.

### 3 Delivery

Any time of delivery stated by Axis is Axis' best estimate of a calculated delivery date. If Axis has reason to believe the delivery cannot be effectuated on the expected delivery date, then Axis shall inform the Customer accordingly and advise when delivery is expected.

### 4 Acceptance

4.1 Unless otherwise stated in the applicable SOW, if Customer reasonably believes that Axis did not perform the Professional Services or the Axis Deliverables (as defined below) in substantial conformance with the applicable SOW and/or PSA, Customer shall notify Axis, in writing, within ten (10) business days following Axis' completion of the Professional Services (the "Acceptance Period"). Customer's notice must specifically identify and explain each alleged non-conformance with the terms of the applicable SOW and/or PSA. Axis will use reasonable efforts to correct Customer's issues.

4.2 If Axis does not receive Customer's notice under Section 4.1 within the Acceptance Period, the Professional Services and the Axis Deliverables (as defined below) will be deemed delivered and accepted by Customer, and Customer will have waived any right of rejection.

### 5 Fees, expenses and payment

5.1 In consideration of the Professional Services provided, Customer shall pay the fees specified in the applicable PSA and/or SOW.

5.2 Unless otherwise specified in the applicable PSA and/or SOW, Customer will reimburse Axis monthly for Axis' expenses related to the Professional Services including, but not limited to, any out-of-pocket expenses such as travel, lodging and related expenses and third party expenses, as incurred in connection with each SOW and/or PSA. Axis will keep records related to such expenses and, upon Customer's request, submit copies of such records with the applicable invoice.

5.3 Unless otherwise specified in the applicable PSA or SOW, all payments under this Agreement shall be made against invoice within thirty (30) days following the date of the invoice.

Invoiced amounts remaining unpaid after payment is due will accrue interest at a rate equal to the lesser of one and a half percent (1.5%) per month or the highest rate allowed by law. In addition, if Axis reasonably determines that Customer's financial condition materially deteriorates after the Effective Date, Axis may suspend performance under this Agreement and any SOW and/or PSA until Customer provides reasonable security to Axis; if such security is not provided to Axis within fifteen (15) days of the request, Axis may terminate this Agreement or any SOW and/or PSA entered into hereunder immediately upon written notice to Customer. Axis' acceptance of any partial payment of an invoice will not waive its rights as to remaining balances, nor in any way constitute accord and satisfaction. Axis is entitled to any reimbursable expenses associated with the collection of overdue amounts owed by Customer.

5.4 Customer will pay all applicable federal, state and local sales, use, value added, excise, duty and any other taxes of any nature assessed on the Professional Services or Axis Deliverables (as defined below), except for taxes based on Axis's revenue or income. In addition, in case the payment, in whole or in part, does not occur within the agreed term, Axis reserves the right to suspend deliveries or services in relation to all contracts with the given Customer until the date on which the balance is fully paid.

### 6 Intellectual Property Rights, Licenses

6.1 Unless otherwise specified in an SOW, any deliverables such as drawings, guidelines, technical specifications, reports, analyses, work products, software, designs, tools, tangible or intangible, supplied by Axis as part of the Professional Services and any modifications, improvements or derivative works of the foregoing resulting from or used in providing Professional Services ("Axis Deliverables") and any copyright and/or other rights related to trademarks, trade secrets, patents, patent applications or any other intellectual property or proprietary right, however arising ("Intellectual Property Rights") therein will remain

the exclusive property of Axis, regardless of whether Customer has contributed to the conception or participated in the development of Axis Deliverables except as provided in Section 6.5 below.

6.2 Unless otherwise specified in the SOW, and upon full and final payment of all fees and expenses owing to Axis under the applicable SOW and/or PSA, Customer is hereby granted a non-exclusive, non-transferrable, non-sub-licensable license, unlimited in time, to, as applicable, (a) use any Axis Deliverables (or part thereof) for the sole purpose of designing, implementing, verifying, using and maintaining an IP Surveillance System in which Axis' products are included and (b) allow its customers a right to use the Axis Deliverables solely as required to make use of the IP Surveillance System in such customer's business. Except as provided in this Section 6.2, the Axis Deliverables may not be reproduced, published or distributed without Axis' prior written consent.

6.3 In case the Axis Deliverables contain any software, the use of any such software by the Customer and Customer's customers is governed by and subject exclusively to the then current Axis General Software License Agreement, which can be found at [www.axis.com](http://www.axis.com).

6.4 With respect to any materials, documentation and software that Customer provides to Axis for the purpose of providing Professional Services ("Customer Provided Materials"), Customer represents and warrants that Customer has the necessary rights to provide the Customer Provided Materials to Axis, so that Axis can access, use and modify Customer Provided Materials as necessary for Axis' performance of the Professional Services.

6.5 The Customer will retain ownership of any and all Intellectual Property Rights in and to any Customer Provided Materials. Axis is hereby granted a non-exclusive license to use such materials for the sole purpose of providing professional services.

## **7 Warranty**

7.1 Axis will perform the Professional Services in a competent and professional manner. Employees or consultants of Axis performing the Professional Services will have the proper skill, training and background to perform his or her assigned tasks. The Professional Services will be performed in accordance with the applicable PSA and/or SOW, in all material respects. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Customer acknowledges and understands that Axis' performance of the Professional Services under this Agreement or an applicable SOW or PSA is subject to and conditioned upon the timely cooperation, willingness, responsiveness and skill level of Customer and its applicable employees and the fulfillment of the responsibilities of Customer set forth in this Agreement and any applicable SOW or PSA.

7.2 Customer must notify Axis of any alleged breach of this warranty before the end of the Acceptance Period. Axis' entire liability and Customer's sole remedy for Axis' breach of this warranty will be for Axis to, at its option, (i) use reasonable efforts to correct that breach, or (ii) terminate the applicable SOW and refund that portion of any fees received that corresponds to that breach.

7.3 The warranties in Section 7.1 do not apply to the extent that the Professional Services have been modified by persons other than Axis' employees or persons authorized by Axis.

7.4 EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION 7, AND UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN AN SOW, AXIS PROVIDES ALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND AXIS DELIVERABLES "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND (WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED), INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ACCURACY, RESULT, EFFORT, TITLE AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. THE ENTIRE RISK AS TO SATISFACTORY QUALITY, PERFORMANCE, ACCURACY AND RESULTS OBTAINED WITH RESPECT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND AXIS DELIVERABLES PROVIDED HEREUNDER LIES WITH CUSTOMER. THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ARE RENDERED BASED ON AXIS' KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF THE GENERAL NEEDS OF SURVEILLANCE WITHIN THE FIELDS OF CUSTOMER'S BUSINESS. CONSEQUENTLY, AXIS DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OR AXIS DELIVERABLES WILL

FULFIL ANY OF CUSTOMER'S PARTICULAR PURPOSES OR NEEDS.

## **8 On site services**

For any Professional Services to be performed on Customer's site, Customer agrees to provide Axis with or arrange reasonable access to applicable documents, tools, equipment, facilities and systems of Customer for Axis to provide the Professional Services, provide a safe work environment for Axis personnel, promptly inform Axis of any safety hazards of which Customer becomes aware that may impact Axis personnel, and notify Axis of any onsite policies that may be applicable to Axis while performing such Professional Services.

## **9 Export control**

Customer represents and warrants that the Professional Services do not require the disclosure by Customer to Axis of any export controlled technology or technical data identified on any U.S. export control list and or other applicable export control lists, including but not limited to the U.S. International Traffic in Arms Regulations and U.S. Export Administration Regulations. Customer is responsible for notifying Axis and receiving confirmation in writing by Axis to agree to receive such data prior to sending it. **AXIS DOES NOT ACCEPT EXPORT CONTROLLED INFORMATION WITHOUT PRIOR CONFIRMATION IN WRITING BY AXIS. CUSTOMER SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD AXIS HARMLESS FOR ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS, DAMAGES, COSTS, FINES, PENALTIES, ATTORNEY'S FEES, AND ALL OTHER EXPENSES ARISING FROM CUSTOMER'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS CLAUSE.**

## **10 Limitation of Liability**

10.1 UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL EITHER PARTY BE LIABLE FOR ANY SPECIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, EXEMPLARY OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OF ANY KIND OR NATURE WHATSOEVER, WHETHER BASED ON CONTRACT, WARRANTY, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE), STRICT LIABILITY OR OTHERWISE, ARISING OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT, EVEN IF ADVISED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE OR IF SUCH DAMAGE COULD HAVE BEEN REASONABLY FORESEEN, AND NOTWITHSTANDING ANY FAILURE OF ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF ANY EXCLUSIVE REMEDY PROVIDED. SUCH LIMITATION OF DAMAGES INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF GOODWILL, LOSS OF PROFIT, REVENUE OR PRODUCTION, INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS, COST OF CAPITAL, LOSS OF DATA OR SOFTWARE, COSTS OF PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE PRODUCTS, EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES, DOWNTIME COSTS, CLAIMS OF CUSTOMER, WORK STOPPAGE, COMPUTER FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION OR IMPAIRMENT OF OTHER GOODS. THE LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY IN THIS SECTION 10.1 WILL NOT APPLY TO (A) CUSTOMER'S VIOLATION OF AXIS' OR ITS LICENSORS' INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OR CUSTOMER'S USE OF THE AXIS DELIVERABLES IN A MANNER NOT EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY THIS AGREEMENT; (B) EITHER PARTY'S BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY UNDER THIS AGREEMENT; (C) CUSTOMER'S PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE SOW AND/OR PSA; (D) CUSTOMER'S BREACH OF SECTION 9; OR (E) ANY LIABILITY WHICH MAY NOT BE EXCLUDED BY APPLICABLE LAW.

10.2 IF, NOTWITHSTANDING ANYTHING TO THE CONTRARY HEREIN, AXIS IS FOUND TO BE LIABLE TO CUSTOMER FOR ANY DAMAGE OR LOSS THAT ARISES OUT OF OR IS RELATED TO A SPECIFIC PSA OR SOW, AXIS' ENTIRE LIABILITY UNDER THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE AMOUNT OF FEES PAID BY CUSTOMER TO AXIS UNDER SAID PSA OR SOW.

## **11 Confidentiality**

11.1 Information of a confidential nature that is provided by one Party (the "Disclosing Party") to the other Party (the "Receiving Party") in connection with the performance or implementation of this Agreement and which, if in written form, is marked "confidential" or with a similar legend by the Disclosing Party before being furnished to the Receiving Party, or if disclosed orally or visually is identified as such prior to disclosure and

followed in writing setting forth such oral or visual information to be treated as confidential and marked 'confidential' or with a similar legend and sent, by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party within thirty (30) days of such oral or visual disclosure, shall be deemed to be confidential information of the Disclosing Party hereunder ("Confidential Information"). Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the existence of the Agreement and the terms and conditions hereof and the Axis Deliverables shall be Confidential Information of Axis, regardless of whether or not such information is marked or identified as "confidential".

11.2 The Receiving Party shall have the right to: (a) use Confidential Information only to extent allowed and for the purposes set forth in this Agreement; (b) copy Confidential Information only to the extent allowed and necessary for the purposes of this Agreement; and (c) disclose Confidential Information only to those of its employees or consultants who need to know said information and pursuant to the limitations set forth this Section 11.2(a)-(b).

11.3 The Receiving Party will take all reasonable measures to avoid disclosure, dissemination or unauthorized use of Disclosing Party's Confidential Information and shall exercise the same degree of care in safeguarding the Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party that it would exercise for its own information of the same type provided that no less than reasonable care be used.

11.4 The confidentiality obligation shall not apply to any material or information which: (a) is generally available or otherwise public; (b) the Receiving Party has received from a third party without any obligation of confidentiality; (c) was in the possession of the Receiving Party prior to receipt of the same from the Disclosing Party without any obligation of confidentiality related thereto; (d) the Receiving Party has developed independently without using material or information received from the Disclosing Party; or (e) the Receiving Party must disclose pursuant to a law, decree, or other order issued by the authorities or judicial order, but only after the Receiving Party has provided the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement (unless legally prohibited) so that appropriate protective orders or other legal remedies may be sought by the Disclosing Party.

11.5 Each Party shall, through confidentiality undertakings with its employees and consultants, or through other appropriate measures, ensure compliance with the above duty of confidentiality.

11.6 Each Party shall cease using Confidential Information received from the other Party promptly upon termination of this Agreement or when the Party no longer needs the material or information in question for the purpose stated in this Agreement and, unless the Parties separately agree on the destruction of such material, return the material in question (including all copies thereof). Each Party shall, however, be entitled to retain the copies required by law or regulations.

11.7 The Receiving Party acknowledges that disclosure or use of the Disclosing Party's Confidential Information in violation of this Section 11 could cause irreparable harm to Disclosing Party for which monetary damages may be difficult to ascertain or an inadequate remedy. The Disclosing Party will have the right, in addition to its other rights and remedies, to injunctive relief for any violation of this Section 11 by the Receiving Party without posting bond or by posting bond at the lowest amount required by law.

11.8 The rights and obligations under this Section 11 shall survive the termination or cancellation of this Agreement and shall remain in force for three (3) years after such termination or cancellation.

#### **12 Subcontractors**

Unless otherwise specified in a PSA or an SOW, Axis shall have the right to engage a subcontractor to fulfil its obligations under the Agreement, provided that Axis shall have in place agreements with such subcontractors sufficient to enable Axis to comply with its obligations under this Agreement and shall remain responsible for the Services provided by such subcontractors hereunder.

#### **13 Term and termination**

13.1 These GTC shall remain in effect from the effective date specified in the PSA or SOW through the completion of the Professional Services contemplated in the PSA or SOW.

13.2 Each Party shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement with immediate effect if (a) the other Party is in material breach of any

of its obligations hereunder and – where capable of remedy – fails to remedy the breach within thirty (30) days from written notice to do so; or (b) the other Party is placed in bankruptcy, enters into composition negotiations with its creditors, enters into liquidation, applies for or is subject to financial reorganization or otherwise is or may be assumed to be insolvent.

13.3 The terms and conditions contained in this Agreement that by their sense and context are intended to survive the performance hereof shall so survive the termination of this Agreement, including but not limited to Sections 6, 7.4, 9, 10, 18 and 21

#### **14 Independent contractors**

The Parties hereto are, and shall remain at all times during this Agreement, independent contractors. Neither Party (nor any agent, representative or employee of that Party) is the representative of the other Party for any purpose, and neither Party has the power or authority as agent, employee or in any other capacity to represent, act for, bind or otherwise create or assume any obligation on behalf of the other Party for any purpose whatsoever. Neither this Agreement nor the performance of the Professional Services shall, or be deemed to, create a partnership, joint venture, agency, fiduciary or employment relationship or any other legal relationship between the Parties. Axis' personnel shall not be deemed employees or agents of Customer, and Axis has and hereby retains the right to exercise full control of and supervision over the performance, employment, direction, compensation and discharge of any and all of Axis' employees performing Professional Services hereunder.

#### **15 Reliefs**

15.1 Each Party shall be excused from fulfillment of any obligations under an Agreement to the extent that and for so long as such fulfillment is prevented or delayed in whole or in part by strikes, lockouts, or other labor disturbances or by causes beyond its reasonable control, such as fire, flood, war, embargoes, blockades, riots, governmental interference, Acts of God and defects or delays in deliveries by subcontractors if caused by any circumstances referred to in this Section.

15.2 If by reason of any circumstances as above mentioned, the fulfillment of an Agreement becomes impossible for more than ninety (90) consecutive days then either Party shall be entitled to terminate the Agreement by written notice to the other Party.

#### **16 Amendments**

No addition to or modification of any provision of this Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties unless made by a written instrument signed by a duly authorized representative of each of the Parties.

#### **17 Entire agreement**

This Agreement, together with each fully-executed SOW and/or PSA and/or Axis Standard Software License Agreement, shall constitute the entire understanding and agreement between Customer and Axis with respect to the Professional Services and the Axis Deliverables and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, proposals and communications, oral or written, regarding such subject matter. Terms contained in any preprinted forms of Customer, or other documentation or electronic procurement system, including, without limitation, terms contained in any purchase order, invoice, written or electronic communication or correspondence, or click-wrap/click-through agreement, are null and void and without effect. Neither Party is relying on any representation, warranty, assurance or inducement not expressly set forth herein.

#### **18 Publicity**

No press release or public announcement of any kind, nor issuing of any promotional material, relating to an order or this Agreement or its contents shall be made by either Party without the other Party's written approval.

#### **19 Assignment**

This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the successors and assignees of the Parties. Subject to Section 12 above, neither Party shall have the right to assign this Agreement or any of its rights or obligations hereunder to any third party without the prior written consent of the other Party, save that Axis shall have a right to assign this Agreement or any of its rights or obligations hereunder to any of its affiliates and/or

companies within the Axis group of companies without the prior written consent of the Customer.

## **20 Miscellaneous**

20.1 No consent or waiver, express or implied, by either Party of any breach or default of the other Party in performing its obligations under this Agreement shall be deemed or construed to be a consent or waiver of any other breach or default by the other Party of the same or any other obligation hereunder. Any failure by one Party to complain of any act or failure to act of the other Party or to declare that other Party in default shall not constitute a waiver by the first Party of its rights under this Agreement. No waiver of any rights under this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing and signed by the Party purporting to give the same.

20.2 If any of the terms and provisions of this Agreement is determined to be void, voidable, illegal, invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the Parties shall amend that provision in such reasonable manner as achieves the intention of the Parties without illegality or, at the discretion of the Parties, such provision may be severed from this Agreement and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect as if such terms and provisions had not been a part of this Agreement.

20.3 All notices and statements shall be in writing and shall be delivered by email to the intended Party at the address and to the contact person set forth in the SOW (unless notification of a change of address and contact person is given in writing). Notice shall be deemed delivered on the date that the email is received. However, if the time of deemed receipt of any notice is not before 5.30 p.m. Customer's local time on a business day, then the notice is deemed to have been received at the commencement of business on the next business day.

20.4 The article, section and paragraph headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

20.5 The provisions of this Agreement are for the sole benefit of the Parties and their respective permitted successors and assigns and nothing in this Agreement, express or implied, confers on any other Person any legal or equitable right, benefit or remedy of any nature whatsoever under or by reason of this Agreement.

## **21 Governing Law and Arbitration**

21.1 If the Professional Services are purchased from Axis Communications AB, the following shall apply: this Agreement shall be deemed performed in and shall be construed and governed by the laws of Sweden, excluding its choice of law provisions. Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, shall be finally settled by arbitration administered by the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (the "SCC"). The Rules for Expedited Arbitrations shall apply, unless the SCC in its discretion determines, taking into account the complexity of the case, the amount in dispute and other circumstances, that the Arbitration Rules shall apply. In the latter case, the SCC shall also decide whether the Arbitral Tribunal shall be composed of one or three arbitrators. The seat of arbitration shall be Lund, Sweden. The language to be used in the arbitral proceedings shall be English.

21.2 If the Professional Services are purchased from Axis Communications Inc., the following shall apply: this Agreement shall instead be governed by the substantive law of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, USA. Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, shall be finally settled by arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce. The arbitral tribunal shall be composed of three arbitrators. The seat and place of arbitration shall be Boston, Massachusetts. The language to be used in the arbitral proceedings shall be English.

21.3 The parties undertake and agree that all arbitral proceedings conducted with reference to this arbitration clause will be kept strictly confidential. This confidentiality undertaking shall cover, inter alia, all information disclosed in the course of such arbitral proceedings, as well as any decision or award that is made or declared during the proceedings. Information covered by this confidentiality undertaking may not, in any form, be disclosed to a third party without the written consent of the other parties.

Notwithstanding the above, a party shall not be prevented from disclosing such information in order to safeguard in the best possible way his rights vis-à-vis the other parties in connection with the dispute, or if obligated to do so pursuant to statute, regulation, a decision by an authority, a stock exchange agreement or similar.