PROTECTION AGREEMENT

THIS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND PROTECTION AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of January 15, 2024 (the "Effective Date"), by and between NEXUS INDUSTRIAL INTELLIGENCE, INC., a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 2500 Innovation Drive, Suite 400, Wilmington, Delaware 19801 ("Company").

1.0 RECITALS

WHEREAS, Company has developed and owns proprietary artificial intelligence and machine learning technology, including computer vision systems, predictive analytics algorithms, and edge computing solutions for industrial process optimization (collectively, the "Technology");

WHEREAS, Company desires to establish and document the ownership, protection, and enforcement rights related to its intellectual property, including the NexusCoreTM Industrial AI Platform and associated technologies;

WHEREAS, Company seeks to protect its substantial investment in research and development, proprietary methodologies, and trade secrets related to industrial automation and operational excellence solutions; and

WHEREAS, Company wishes to memorialize its intellectual property rights and establish protocols for the protection and enforcement thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, Company hereby establishes and declares the following:

2.0 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 Defined Terms. For purposes of this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:
- (a) "Artificial Intelligence Components" means any and all machine learning models, neural networks, deep learning systems, and associated training methodologies developed by Company, including but not limited to supervised learning algorithms, reinforcement learning systems, computer vision models, natural language processing engines, and any computational frameworks designed to emulate human cognitive functions.

- (b) "Confidential Information" means all non-public information, including but not limited to, source code, algorithms, training data, technical specifications, customer data, trade secrets, business plans, financial information, research methodologies, system architectures, performance metrics, optimization strategies, manufacturing processes, quality control parameters, and any other proprietary information related to the Technology, whether in written, oral, electronic, or other form.
- (c) "Derivative Works" means any modification, enhancement, improvement, adaptation, transformation, arrangement, or derivative work based upon or derived from the Technology or any component thereof, including but not limited to custom implementations, feature extensions, interface modifications, algorithm refinements, and integration solutions developed for specific industrial applications.
- (d) "Edge Computing Infrastructure" means the distributed computing architecture deployed at or near the source of data generation, including processing units, sensors, actuators, and local storage systems designed to enable real-time data processing and analysis.
- (e) "Industrial Process Optimization Solutions" means Company's proprietary methods and systems for improving manufacturing efficiency, quality control, and predictive maintenance, including automated inspection systems, process control algorithms, yield optimization tools, and equipment health monitoring solutions.
- (f) "Intellectual Property Rights" means all patents, patent applications, copyrights, trade secrets, trademarks, service marks, trade names, domain names, mask works, know-how, moral rights, contract rights, database rights, rights in designs, and all other intellectual property rights, whether registered or unregistered, owned or controlled by Company in any jurisdiction worldwide.
- (g) "Machine Learning Models" means the mathematical and statistical models, including their associated parameters, weights, and architectures, designed to learn patterns from data and make predictions or decisions without explicit programming.
- (h) "NexusCore™ Platform" means Company's enterprise software suite that integrates computer vision, machine learning, and edge computing capabilities for industrial applications, including its core processing engine, user interface components, API layers, database systems, analytics modules, and all associated microservices and supporting infrastructure.
- (i) "Performance Metrics" means quantitative measurements of system effectiveness, including but not limited to accuracy rates, processing speeds, latency measurements, throughput statistics, and resource utilization indicators.
- (j) "System Architecture" means the fundamental organization of the Technology, including its components, their relationships to each other and the environment, and the principles governing its design and evolution.

- (k) "Technical Documentation" means all specifications, documentation, manuals, training materials, implementation guides, API documentation, architecture diagrams, deployment instructions, and other materials describing the Technology's functionality, operation, and maintenance requirements.
- 2.2 Interpretation. In this Agreement:
- (a) Section headings are for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement
- (b) Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa
- (c) References to Sections are to Sections of this Agreement
- (d) The term "including" means "including without limitation"
- (e) References to any gender include all genders
- (f) References to "written" or "in writing" include email and other electronic communications
- (g) Technical terms shall be interpreted according to their generally accepted meaning within the artificial intelligence and industrial automation industries
- (h) Any reference to a statute, regulation, or standard includes any modification, amendment, or re-enactment thereof
- (i) Time periods shall be calculated in calendar days unless otherwise specified
- (j) In the event of any ambiguity or inconsistency between the definitions provided herein and their usage within the Agreement, the definitions provided in this Section shall prevail
- (k) Any obligation not to do something includes an obligation not to permit or suffer that thing to be done
- (l) References to third-party software, platforms, or technologies shall be interpreted according to their commonly understood industry definitions at the time of this Agreement's execution

3.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

- 3.1 Pre-existing Intellectual Property
- (a) Company is the sole and exclusive owner of all right, title, and interest in and to the Technology, including: (i) All Artificial Intelligence Components, including but not limited to machine learning models, neural networks, training methodologies, algorithmic implementations, and inference engines (ii) The NexusCore™ Platform and all associated components, modules, interfaces, and architectures (iii) All Industrial Process Optimization Solutions, including optimization algorithms, control systems, and performance analytics (iv) All associated Intellectual Property Rights, whether registered or unregistered, in any jurisdiction worldwide

(b) Company's ownership includes all improvements, modifications, and Derivative Works thereof, whether developed internally or through contractors, including: (i) Any adaptations, enhancements, or customizations of the Technology (ii) New features, functionalities, or capabilities added to the Technology (iii) Integration components and interoperability solutions (iv) Performance improvements and optimization techniques

3.2 Newly Developed Intellectual Property

- (a) All intellectual property developed by Company's employees or contractors in connection with the Technology shall be owned exclusively by Company, including: (i) Software code, scripts, and programming tools (ii) Technical documentation and specifications (iii) User interfaces and experience designs (iv) Data structures and database schemas (v) Training data and machine learning models (vi) Process workflows and methodologies
- (b) All employees and contractors shall: (i) Execute necessary assignments of intellectual property rights promptly upon request (ii) Cooperate in securing and protecting Company's rights through patent applications, copyright registrations, and other protective measures (iii) Maintain confidentiality of all proprietary information and trade secrets (iv) Promptly disclose all inventions, improvements, and developments related to the Technology (v) Assist in documentation and preservation of intellectual property assets

3.3 Third-Party Components

- (a) Company maintains comprehensive records of all third-party software and technology incorporated into the Technology, including: (i) Commercial software licenses and terms (ii) API integrations and service dependencies (iii) Development tools and frameworks (iv) Runtime environments and platforms
- (b) All third-party components are properly licensed and compliant with applicable terms, whereby: (i) License agreements are documented and maintained (ii) Usage restrictions are monitored and enforced (iii) License fees and royalties are properly paid (iv) Compliance audits are conducted periodically

3.4 Open Source Software

- (a) Company maintains an inventory of all open source components used in the Technology, including: (i) Component name, version, and source (ii) Applicable license terms and conditions (iii) Usage context and integration method (iv) Risk assessment and compliance status
- (b) All open source usage complies with applicable license terms and does not compromise Company's proprietary rights, ensuring: (i) Proper attribution and notices are maintained (ii) Source code availability requirements are met (iii) License compatibility is verified (iv) Copyleft obligations are managed

3.5 Intellectual Property Protection

- (a) Company implements comprehensive measures to protect its intellectual property, including: (i) Regular patent portfolio reviews and filings (ii) Copyright registrations for key works (iii) Trademark protection for brands and marks (iv) Trade secret protection protocols
- (b) Protection measures include: (i) Access controls and security protocols (ii) Employee training and awareness programs (iii) Monitoring for potential infringement (iv) Enforcement action when necessary
- 3.6 License Grants and Restrictions
- (a) Company may grant licenses to its intellectual property under separate agreements, subject to: (i) Clearly defined scope and limitations (ii) Usage restrictions and prohibitions (iii) Quality control requirements (iv) Termination provisions
- (b) Unless explicitly licensed, all rights are reserved to Company, including: (i) Modification and enhancement rights (ii) Distribution and sublicensing rights (iii) Commercial exploitation rights (iv) Derivative works creation rights
- 3.7 Intellectual Property Audits and Compliance
- (a) Company conducts regular audits of its intellectual property assets, including: (i) Inventory of protected works (ii) License compliance verification (iii) Usage monitoring and tracking (iv) Risk assessment and mitigation
- (b) Compliance measures include: (i) Documentation of ownership chain (ii) Verification of assignments and transfers (iii) Review of contractual obligations (iv) Assessment of protection adequacy
- 3.8 Dispute Resolution and Enforcement
- (a) Company reserves all rights to enforce its intellectual property rights through: (i) Cease and desist notifications (ii) Legal proceedings when necessary (iii) Alternative dispute resolution (iv) Licensing negotiations
- (b) Enforcement actions may include: (i) Injunctive relief (ii) Monetary damages (iii) Contractual remedies (iv) Administrative proceedings

4.0 IP PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

- 4.1 Trade Secret Protection
- (a) Company shall maintain comprehensive security measures to protect Confidential Information, including: (i) Multi-factor authentication and role-based access controls (ii) Encrypted data storage and transmission protocols (iii) Biometric security systems for restricted areas (iv) Regular security audits and penetration testing (v) Digital rights management (DRM) systems (vi) Network monitoring and intrusion detection systems (vii) Secure disposal procedures for confidential materials

- (b) Personnel Security Requirements: (i) Background checks for all employees and contractors
- (ii) Comprehensive confidentiality agreements with liquidated damages provisions (iii) Quarterly security awareness training (iv) Exit interviews and access termination procedures
- (v) Non-compete agreements for key personnel (vi) Regular compliance audits

4.2 Patent Rights

- (a) Company shall implement a structured patent protection strategy including: (i) Regular invention disclosure reviews (ii) Priority assessment of patentable innovations (iii) Geographic coverage optimization (iv) Continuation and divisional application strategy (v) Regular portfolio valuation and maintenance decisions
- (b) Company shall maintain and enforce its patent portfolio through: (i) Quarterly patent audits and landscape analysis (ii) Competitive intelligence monitoring (iii) Freedom-to-operate analyses (iv) Strategic licensing programs (v) Enforcement action protocols (vi) Alternative dispute resolution procedures
- (c) AI/ML Technology Protection: (i) Algorithm protection strategy (ii) Training data security measures (iii) Model architecture protection (iv) Implementation-specific patents (v) Regular AI/ML innovation assessment

4.3 Copyright Protection

- (a) Company shall implement comprehensive copyright protection including: (i) Automatic registration of new works (ii) Source code escrow arrangements (iii) Digital watermarking (iv) Version control systems (v) Documentation of independent creation
- (b) Software Protection Measures: (i) Code obfuscation requirements (ii) API security protocols (iii) License management systems (iv) Open source compliance procedures (v) Regular code audits

4.4 Trademark Protection

- (a) Company shall maintain and enforce trademark rights through: (i) Regular trademark searches and monitoring (ii) Domain name protection strategy (iii) Social media username registration (iv) Counterfeit monitoring programs (v) Quality control procedures
- (b) Brand Protection Requirements: (i) Style guide compliance (ii) Third-party usage agreements (iii) Marketing material review procedures (iv) International registration strategy (v) Regular trademark renewals

4.5 Infringement Procedures

(a) Detection and Monitoring: (i) Automated monitoring systems (ii) Regular market surveillance (iii) Customer and partner reporting channels (iv) Technical protection measures (v) Online marketplace monitoring

- (b) Response Protocol: (i) Initial assessment procedures (ii) Evidence preservation requirements (iii) Cease and desist procedures (iv) Settlement negotiation guidelines (v) Litigation preparation checklist
- (c) Documentation Requirements: (i) Chain of custody procedures (ii) Incident response logs
- (iii) Communication records (iv) Damage assessment reports (v) Resolution documentation
- 4.6 Cybersecurity Requirements
- (a) Technical Measures: (i) Encryption standards (minimum AES-256) (ii) Firewall configuration requirements (iii) Regular vulnerability scanning (iv) Patch management procedures (v) Backup and recovery protocols
- (b) Administrative Controls: (i) Incident response plan (ii) Business continuity procedures (iii) Vendor security assessment (iv) Regular security audits (v) Employee access reviews
- 4.7 Trade Secret Management
- (a) Classification System: (i) Information categorization procedures (ii) Access level definitions (iii) Handling requirements by category (iv) Regular classification reviews (v) Declassification procedures
- (b) Physical Security: (i) Clean desk policy (ii) Visitor management procedures (iii) Secure disposal requirements (iv) Environmental controls (v) Physical access logs
- 4.8 Compliance and Reporting
- (a) Regular Assessments: (i) Quarterly compliance reviews (ii) Annual security audits (iii) Risk assessment updates (iv) Policy effectiveness evaluation (v) Training program assessment
- (b) Documentation Requirements: (i) Compliance reports (ii) Incident logs (iii) Audit trails (iv) Training records (v) Enforcement actions

5.0 REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

5.1 Title Warranties

Company represents and warrants that: (a) It is the sole and exclusive owner of the Technology and possesses all right, title, and interest therein (b) It has the right to use all third-party components incorporated into the Technology (c) The Technology is free from encumbrances, liens, security interests, and other restrictions (d) All employees, contractors, and consultants who contributed to the Technology have executed valid assignment agreements (e) All payments and obligations related to the Technology's development have been satisfied in full

5.2 Non-infringement Warranties

Company represents and warrants that: (a) The Technology does not infringe, misappropriate, or violate any third-party intellectual property rights (b) No claims of infringement have been

made or threatened against the Company or its licensees (c) Company has conducted reasonable diligence regarding freedom to operate (d) No trade secrets or confidential information of any third party have been improperly incorporated (e) The Technology's AI algorithms and machine learning models are independently developed (f) All training data used in the Technology has been properly licensed or legally obtained

5.3 Compliance Warranties

Company represents and warrants that: (a) The Technology complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and industry standards (b) All necessary licenses, permits, and authorizations have been obtained (c) Open source usage complies with applicable licenses and obligations (d) The Technology meets all relevant safety and performance standards (e) All data collection, processing, and storage complies with applicable privacy laws (f) The Technology adheres to relevant industrial safety regulations and protocols

5.4 Technical Warranties

Company represents and warrants that: (a) The Technology performs substantially in accordance with its documentation (b) The Technology has been tested for security vulnerabilities (c) Appropriate backup and disaster recovery procedures are in place (d) The Technology includes industry-standard security measures (e) All known material defects have been disclosed to Licensee

5.5 Data and AI Warranties

Company represents and warrants that: (a) All AI models have been validated for accuracy and reliability (b) Training data is free from material bias and discrimination (c) Data processing complies with GDPR, CCPA, and other applicable privacy regulations (d) Appropriate data governance controls are implemented (e) AI decision-making processes are transparent and explainable as required by law

5.6 Documentation Warranties

Company represents and warrants that: (a) All documentation is complete, accurate, and current (b) Technical specifications are properly maintained and updated (c) User manuals and training materials are sufficient for intended use (d) All known limitations and requirements are clearly disclosed

5.7 Maintenance and Support

Company represents and warrants that: (a) Qualified personnel will provide maintenance and support (b) Response times will meet industry standards (c) Updates and patches will be provided as needed (d) Technical support will be available during specified hours

5.8 Disclaimer

EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT, COMPANY MAKES NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO

IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, OR NON-INFRINGEMENT. COMPANY DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THE TECHNOLOGY WILL BE ERROR-FREE OR OPERATE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

The representations and warranties set forth in this Section 5.0 shall survive the execution and delivery of this Agreement for a period of twenty-four (24) months following the Effective Date.