## INVESTOR MEETING

**ODDO BHF TMT Forum** 

March 7 & 8, 2024



### **AGENDA**

Wavestone + Q\_PERIOR, a new consulting champion

**02** 2023/24 half-year results

Outlook and recent news

## From strategic partners with a first-class reputation in Europe to a newly combined global consulting powerhouse

#### **WAVESTONE**

is an independent French leading consultancy, listed on Euronext Paris, with an established business in the UK and the US.

## A people-centric and responsible company

- A consultancy that puts people at the center of everything.
- An ethical and civic-minded firm, at the forefront of best practices in social, societal and environmental responsibility.

#### **Q** PERIOR

is a German independent consulting firm, leader in the Germany-Switzerland-Austria region.

### A unique range of capabilities

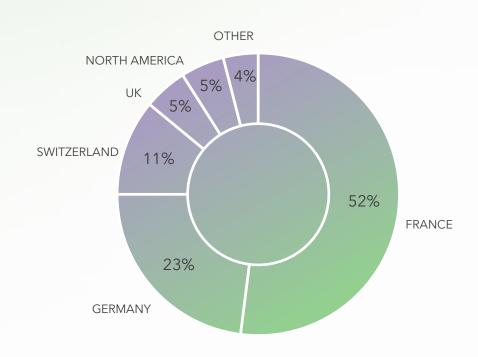
- Unrivalled industry expertise and technology fluency.
- Cutting-edge know-how in key crossindustry domains such as Cybersecurity or Sustainability.
- End-to-end transformation support, from building the business case to making the change happen.

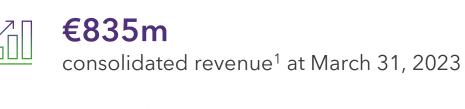
### Independent, integrated, with one objective: Client Success

- A development model driven by growth.
- Majority of the shares owned by founders and key leaders of the firm.

### Stronger and broader: a substantial international presence

## A leading position in the three main markets of continental Europe





12.1%

consolidated EBIT margin<sup>1</sup> at March 31, 2023



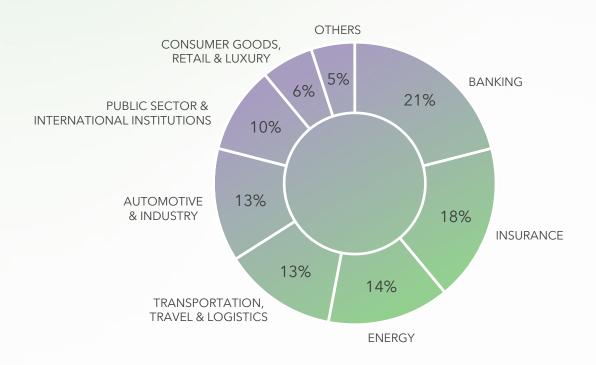
5,500+ cumulated FTEs



17 countries in presence

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  Based on IFRS unaudited pro forma figures over 12 months at March 31, 2023

### Breakdown of the new group's activities



### Key customers<sup>1</sup>

BMW MUNICH RE

CREDIT AGRICOLE SNCF

DEUTSCHE BAHN SOCIETE GENERALE

EDF SWISS RE

L'OREAL TOTALENERGIES

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ranked by alphabetical order

### A 360° transformation portfolio of high-value consulting services

#### Unrivalled industry expertise

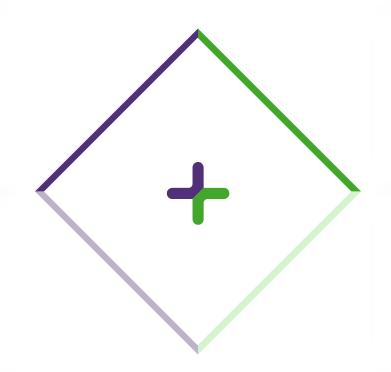
Banking, Insurance, Energy, Transportation, Automotive & Industry, Beauty & Luxury,...

### Core-business process capabilities

Customer Experience, Supply Chain, Compliance, risk and regulations

## Technology & integration capabilities

Data & Artificial intelligence, Cybersecurity, SAP consulting, IT Strategy & CTO Advisory



## Corporate functions and support-process capabilities

Corporate finance, HR and procurement, Sourcing & Services optimization, Change Management

#### Sustainability capabilities

Decarbonation, Green IT, IT for Green CSRD - Double materiality assessment

## Long-term growth ambitions while remaining true to our non-financial commitments

#### 2025

2026

2027

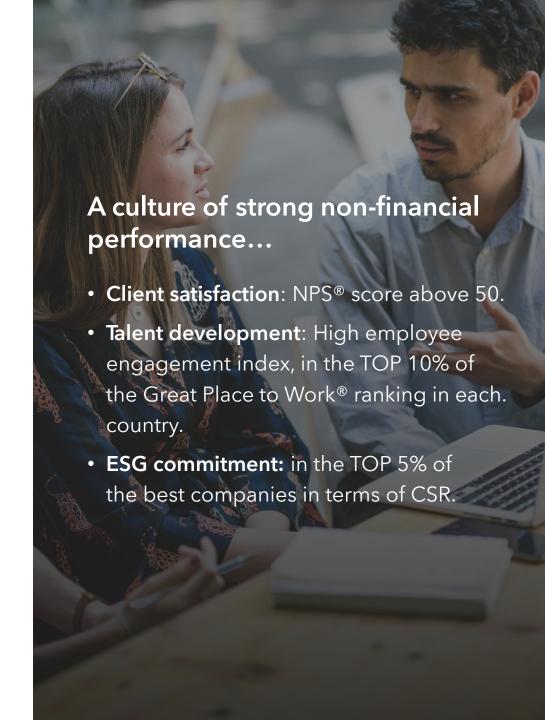
2028

2029

2030

# By 2025<sup>1</sup>, reach €1bn revenue and EBIT of at least €130m, and, in the longer term:

- Sustain a 15% revenue growth rate<sup>2</sup>.
- Be considered by our clients as the trusted alternative to major and established competitors<sup>3</sup> for their major transformation projects.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excluding new acquisitions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Combining organic growth and acquisitions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Big 4 and dominant UK/US firms

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### Growth of +17% in H1 2023/24

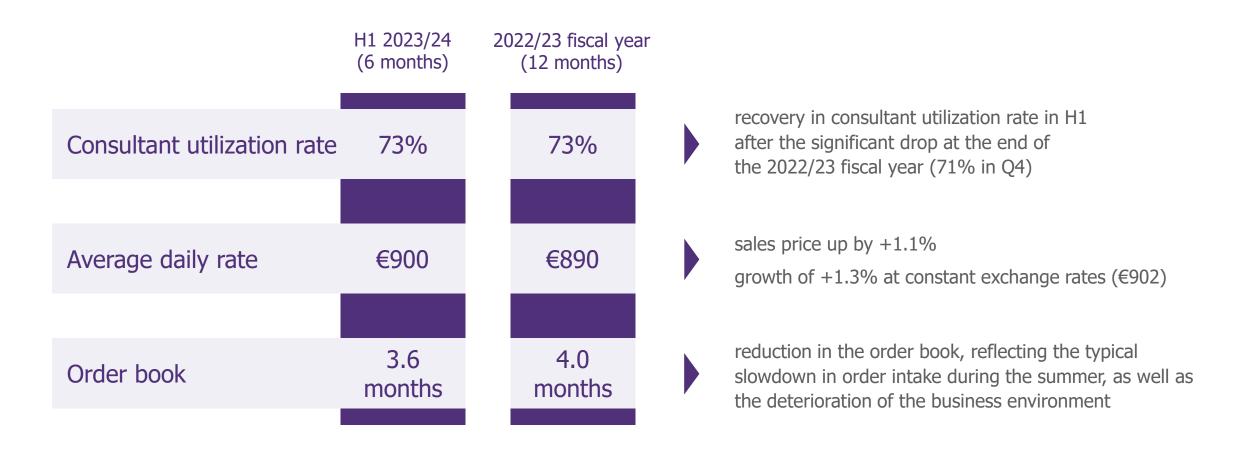
Revenue  In €m - unaudited consolidated data	2023/24	2022/23	Change at constant scope <sup>1</sup> and on a constant forex basis	Total variation
Q1	143.3	122.0	+11%	+17%
Q2	133.4	115.1	+14%	+16%
H1	276.7	237.1	+12%	+17%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excluding PEN Partnership, consolidated since August 1, 2022; and Coeus Consulting, consolidated since October 1, 2022

### / Revenue of €276.7m in H1 2023/24: +17%

- > growth of +12% at constant scope and exchange rates (unfavorable working day impact of -2.2%)
- > result of the intensification of business development activity and growth driven by headcount at the end of the 2022/23 fiscal year

### Consultant utilization rate of 73% in H1 2023/24 and increase in sales price of +1.1%



## Stabilization of the staff turnover rate at 14%; recruitment pace remains moderate

- / Continued decline in staff turnover, stabilized at 14% at the end of September
  - > compared with 16% over the whole of the previous fiscal year (on a rolling 12-month basis)
- / Reduced recruitment momentum in 2023/24
  - > due to a degraded economic environment and lower staff turnover rate
- / 4,305 employees at September 30, 2023
  - > compared with 4,406 at the end of March the end of the 2022/23 fiscal year
- / An increase in headcount expected over the whole of the 2023/24 fiscal year
  - > despite the moderation of recruitment activity



### +24% increase in EBIT – 13.3% profitability

Consolidated data (in €m) Limited review	H1 2023/24 (6 months)	H1 2022/23 (6 months)	Change	2022/23 (12 months)
Revenue	276.7	237.1	+17%	532.3
Purchases consumed	(13.3)	(8.0)		(21.8)
Personnel costs	(199.4)	(170.9)		(373.3)
External expenses	(20.9)	(22.7)		(46.6)
Levies and taxes	(3.4)	(3.1)		(8.0)
Net allocation for depreciation and provisions	(3.4)	(2.4)		(5.8)
Other operating income and expenses	0.5	(0.2)		0.2
EBIT	36.8	29.7	+24%	77.0
EBIT margin	13.3%	12.5%		14.5%

impact of the consolidation of PEN Partnership and Coeus Consulting

### Net margin for H1 of 8.3%

Consolidated data (in €m) Limited review	H1 2023/24 (6 months)	H1 2022/23 (6 months)	Change	2022/23 (12 months)	
EBIT	36.8	29.7	+24%	77.0	
EBIT margin	13.3%	12.5%		14.5%	
Amortization of client relationships	(0.7)	(0.7)		(1.5)	
Other operating income and expenses	(2.8)	(3.3)		(2.9)	■ largely linked to the proposed
Operating income	33.2	25.7	+29%	72.7	combination with Q_PERIOR
Cost of net financial debt	(0.7)	(0.4)		(1.8)	h vising interest vates
Other income and expenses	(0.3)	(0.4)		(2.3)	rising interest rates
Tax charges	(9.2)	(6.9)		(18.5)	
<b>Group share of net income</b>	23.0	17.9	+28%	50.1	
Net margin	8.3%	7.6%		9.4%	

### Increase of 31% in self-financing capacity to €39.4m

Consolidated data (in €m) Limited review	H1 2023/24 (6 months)	H1 2022/23 (6 months)	2022/23 (12 months)
Self-financing capacity before financial debt and tax expenses	39.4	30.1	83.8
Tax paid	(9.8)	(12.2)	(21.1)
Change in WCR	(20.3)	(25.4)	(21.6)
Net cash flow from operations	9.3	(7.5)	41.1
Net cash flow from investments	(6.5)	(52.1)	(52.7)
of which fixed asset acquisitions	(1.1)	(0.9)	(3.7)
of which change in financial assets	(0.2)	(22.1)*	0.0
of which changes in scope	(5.3)	(29.3)	(49.2)
Net cash flow from financing operations	(19.7)	(21.1)	(25.8)
of which dividends paid	(7.6)	(7.6)	(7.6)
of which sales (acquisitions) of company shares	(6.0)	(6.5)	(6.4)
of which loans received net of repayments	(2.8)	(4.1)	(4.4)
of which repayments of lease liabilities	(2.6)	(2.5)	(5.1)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(16.9)	(80.8)	(37.4)

<sup>\*</sup> including €22.2m in acquisition of Coeus Consulting shares

### Net cash of €13.3m at September 30, 2023

Consolidated data (in €m) Limited review	09/30 2023	31/03 2023
Non-current assets of which goodwill including rights to use leased assets	<b>269.8</b> 237.8 11.4	<b>272.8</b> 235.4 13.2
<b>Current assets</b> of which trade receivables	<b>193.5</b> 175.2	<b>193.1</b> 176.6
Cash and cash equivalents	54.1	70.8
TOTAL ASSETS	517.4	536.8

Consolidated data (in €m) Limited review	09/30 2023	31/03 2023
Shareholders' equity	311.9	299.1
Financial liabilities	40.9	43.7
of which less than one year	5.6	5.7
Lease liabilities	13.5	15.9
Non-financial liabilities	151.2	178.2
TOTAL LIABILITIES	517.4	536.8

### Net cash¹: €13.3m

compared with €27.1m at March 31, 2023

<sup>1</sup> Excluding IFRS 16 lease liabilities © WAVESTONE

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### Revenue up +20% over nine months in 2023/24; equivalent to +12% organic growth

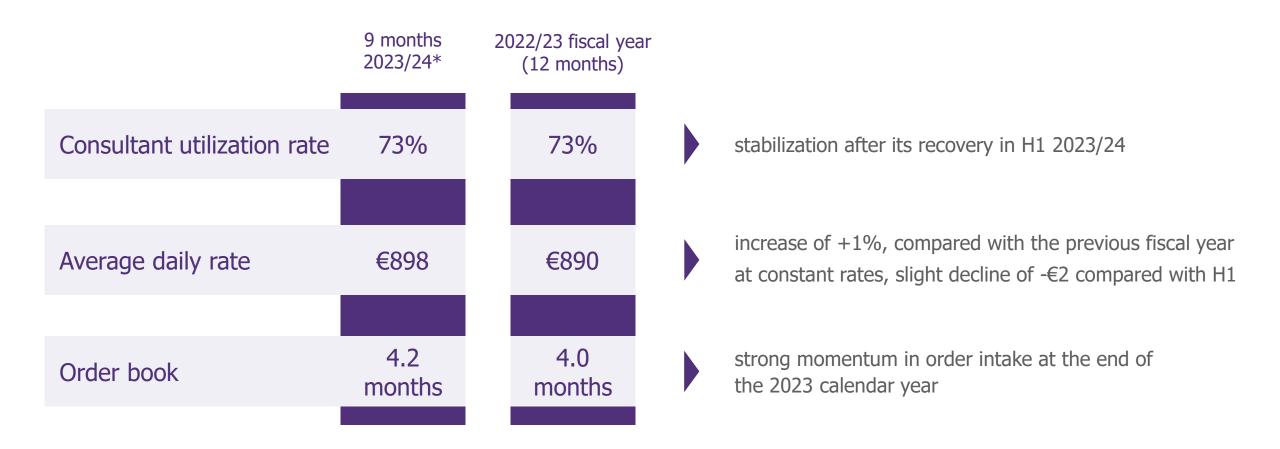
Revenue in €m  Unaudited consolidated data	2023/24	2023/24 excluding Q_PERIOR	2022/23	Change at constant scope <sup>1</sup> and on a constant forex basis	Total change
Q1	143.3	143.3	122.0	+11%	+17%
Q2	133.4	133.4	115.1	+14%	+16%
Q3	175.6	150.9	139.1	+10%	+26%
Nine-month total	452.2	427.6	376.2	+12%	+20%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> excluding PEN Partnership, consolidated since August 1, 2022; Coeus Consulting, consolidated since October 1, 2022; and Q\_PERIOR consolidated since December 1, 2023. Aspirant Consulting will be consolidated from February 1, 2024.

### / Revenue growth of +26% in Q3 2023/24

- > growth of +10% at constant scope and exchange rates
- / €427.6m nine-month revenue excluding Q\_PERIOR
  - > annual revenue target, excluding Q\_PERIOR and Aspirant Consulting, of over €580m
- / €452.2m nine-month revenue on total scope
  - > up +20%, equivalent to +12% organic growth

### Stabilization of the consultant utilization rate at 73%; good level of order book



<sup>\*</sup> these indicators relate to Wavestone's scope excluding Q\_PERIOR, while waiting to deploy consolidated operating indicators across the new firm.

## Stabilization of staff turnover rate at 14%, moderate recruitment policy maintained

- / Stable staff turnover rate at the end of December
  - > 14% over a rolling 12-month period (excluding Q\_PERIOR)
  - > compared with 16% over the whole of the previous fiscal year
- / Moderate rate of recruitment maintained in 2023/24
  - > due to the still uncertain economic environment and lower staff turnover rate
- / 5,764 employees at December 31, 2023
  - > including 1,332 from the combination with Q\_PERIOR
  - > 4,432 employees excluding Q\_PERIOR, compared with 4,406 at the end of 2022/23 fiscal year



## Strengthening our position in the US with the acquisition of Aspirant Consulting

### / Aspirant Consulting: supporting the digital transformation of businesses

- > leading expertise in marketing & innovation, organizational design & change management, and digital transformation
- clients: Global 500 companies and large US companies in several sectors, in particular Life Sciences

### / Strengthening of Wavestone's position in the US

- > alignment of the two firms in terms of commercial approach and values
- > leaders of Aspirant Consulting will continue the firm's development within Wavestone

### / Terms of the operation

- > acquisition by Wavestone of a 100% share capital in Aspirant Consulting
- > purchase price: \$24.0m (€21.9m) in enterprise value
- > up to \$10.0m (€9.1m), depending on the performance of the firm to December 31, 2024

- (~€23.8m) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023
- / Expected adjusted **EBITDA** margin of over 10%
- ~100 employees including about 80 consultants
- / Registered office: Pittsburgh, United States
- / Consolidated from **February 1, 2024**



### Caution maintained for the start of 2024

### / A solid Q3, both for Wavestone and Q\_PERIOR

- > as a result of intense business development activity, focused on the best-positioned sectors
- > Q\_PERIOR: increase in consultant utilization rate, good level of order intake, and staff turnover rate of about 10%
- > a prudent recruitment policy maintained for both firms

### / Toughening of the business environment

> demand impacted in several sectors, but others remain resilient

banking, retail, public sector

insurance, energy, luxury, transport

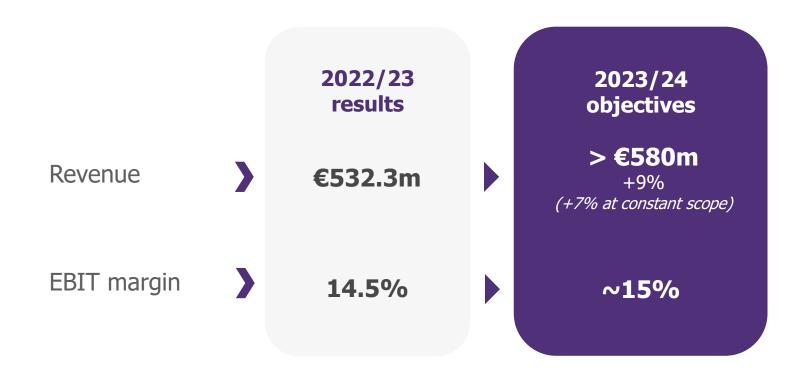
#### / Caution at the start of 2024

- > cautious recruitment since beginning of 2024/25 leading to marked slowdown in organic growth over Q4
- > consultant utilization rate will be down slightly in Q4, penalized by the increased hesitancy among decision makers in proceeding with projects at the start of the calendar year, and less favorable market conditions in the UK

### / Q\_PERIOR scope

- > utilization rate of Q4 2023/24 follows the trends of previous months
- > but, as for Wavestone, marked slowdown in growth

### Confirmation of the 2023/24 financial objectives



Objectives at constant exchange rates, not including at this stage, Q\_PERIOR (consolidated for 4 months) and Aspirant Consulting (consolidated for 2 months)

### Financial agenda





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