

H1 2023 Results

18 September 2023

S⁴ Capital plc



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Chapter 1

Results

S4 Capital plc



Financial Headlines

Net revenue

Operational EBITDA

EBITDA margin

£445.5m

£36.5m

8.2%

+18.7% reported +5.1% like-for-like¹ +21.3% reported -30.2% like-for-like

vs. 8.0% prior year reported vs. 12.3% prior year like-for-like

Adjusted operating profit²

Adjusted EPS

Net Debt³

£30.6m

1.7p adjusted EPS

£109.4m 0.9x leverage⁴

vs. £25.4m prior year reported

vs. 2.1p prior year reported

vs. £135.5m prior year reported

Navigating through a challenging market environment

S⁴ Capital pic Chapter 1 - Results 18 September 2023

^{1.} Like-for-like is a non-GAAP measure related to 2022 being restated to show the unaudited numbers for the previous year of the existing and acquired businesses consolidated for the same months as in 2023 applying currency rates as used in 2023

^{2.} Adjusted operating profit is operating profit adjusted for acquisition, restructuring and other expenses, amortisation and share based payments

Net debt excludes lease liabilities

Net debt leverage is calculated as net debt / pro forma 12 month Operational EBITDA



Income statement

- / Net revenue growth of 18.7%, 5.1% like-for-like, reflecting the challenging macroeconomic conditions and clients' caution
- Operational EBITDA of £36.5 million, 8.2% margin, below our initial budget reflecting slower top line growth and moderate cost growth
- Adjusting items primarily combination related with acquisition, restructuring and other expenses lower due to reduction in merger activity and reduced contingent considerations

Adjusting items £ millions	ended	Six months ended 30 Jun 2022
Amortisation of acquired intangibles	24.2	24.2
Share based payments	7.1	6.9
Acquisition, restructuring & other expenses	5.7	69.7
Total of Adjusting items	37.0	100.8

£ millions	Six months ended 30 Jun 2023	Six months ended 30 Jun 2022 ²	Change Reported	Change Like-for- like
Revenue	517.1	446.4	15.8%	2.5%
Net revenue	445.5	375.3	18.7%	5.1%
Operating expenses	(407.4)	(345.0)	-18.1%	-9.8%
Acquisition, restructuring & other expenses	(5.7)	(69.7)	91.8%	92.3%
Depreciation & amortisation	(38.8)	(36.0)	-7.8%	-5.4%
Total operating expenses	(451.9)	(450.7)	-0.3%	-6.3%
Operational EBITDA	36.5	30.1	21.3%	-30.2%
Operating loss	(6.4)	(75.4)	91.5%	
Adjusting items	(37.0)	(100.8)	63.3%	
Adjusted operating profit ¹	30.6	25.4	20.5%	
Finance expense & other	(16.8)	(10.2)	-64.7%	
Profit / (loss) before income tax	(23.2)	(85.6)	72.9%	
Income tax credit / (expense)	3.5	3.3	6.1%	
Profit / (loss) for the period	(19.7)	(82.3)	76.1%	
Operational EBITDA Margin	8.2%	8.0%	20bps	-410bps
Adjusted basic earnings per share	1.7	2.1	(0.4)	

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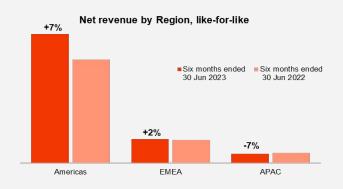
Adjusted operating profit is operating profit adjusted for acquisition, restructuring and other expenses, amortisation and share based payments
 The prior period figures have been restated for the adoption of the amendment to IAS 12



Net revenue by practice and region

- Content's trading overall was tough. There was solid growth across its scaled client base, although some larger Tech clients showed hesitancy and budget constraints. Some mid tier clients were affected by market softness and internal restructurings. New business, local and regional clients underperformed
- Data&Digital Media had modest growth in the first half, again highlighting tougher market conditions particularly in the activation and performance business lines
- Technology Services remained strong, benefiting from spend by key clients being weighted to the first half

£ millions	Six Months ended 30 Jun 2023	Six Months ended 30 Jun 2022	Change Reported	Change Like-for-like
Content	264.7	250.2	5.8%	-2.5%
Data&Digital Media	106.6	100.7	5.9%	2.4%
Technology Services	74.2	24.4	204.1%	54.3%
Net revenue	445.5	375.3	18.7%	5.1%





Operational EBITDA by practice

- Content saw people cost inflation and higher IT costs against lower than budgeted revenues which impacted profitability. Control on hiring has reduced headcount at the period end and will benefit the second half
- Data&Digital Media also had some people cost inflation and higher travel and selling costs (vs a prior period impacted by Covid) which reduced operational EBITDA
- Technology Services' margin remained strong, reflecting excellent growth and delivery

£ millions	Six Months ended 30 Jun 2023	Six Months ended 30 Jun 2022	Change Reported	Change Like-for-like
Content	6.8	14.0	-51.4%	-73.3%
Data&Digital Media	16.3	17.4	-6.3%	-15.5%
Technology Services	26.5	8.8	201.1%	49.7%
S ⁴ central costs	(13.1)	(10.1)	-29.7%	-28.4%
Operational EBITDA	36.5	30.1	21.3%	-30.2%
Content	2.6%	5.6%	-300bps	-680bps
Data&Digital Media	15.3%	17.3%	-200bps	-320bps
Technology Services	35.7%	36.1%	-40bps	-110bps
Operational EBITDA Margin	8.2%	8.0%	20bps	-410bps



Debt & balance sheet

- / Liquid balance sheet with long dated maturities
- / £100m RCF remains undrawn
- 2023 H1 net debt £109 million (versus £135 million at June 2022), leverage at 0.9x

Availability and usage of net debt facilities				
	Net Debt £ millions	Facility millions	Undrawn £ millions	Maturity Due date
Term Loan	322.7	€375.0	-	August 2028
RCF	-	£100.0	100.0	August 2026
Other Loans	~			
Cash	(213.3)			
Net debt	109.4		100.0	
Net debt to pro-forma operational EBITDA	0.9x			

£ millions	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Non-current assets	0.97700.00	
Intangible assets	1,094.5	1,164.0
Right-of-use assets	51.5	55.7
Property, plant and equipment	27.0	29.7
Others	25.2	27.3
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	365.2	442.4
Tax assets	3.6	***************************************
Cash and cash equivalents	213.3	223.6
Total assets	1,780.3	1,942.7
Non-current liabilities		
Deferred tax liabilities	(57.2)	(63.8)
Loans and borrowings	(316.3)	(326.2)
Others	(49.9)	(60.1)
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	(401.4)	(443.2)
Contingent consideration and holdback	(111.3)	(177.3)
Others	(16.4)	(22.0)
Total liabilities	(952.5)	(1,092.6)
Net assets	827.8	850.1
Attributable to owners of the company	827.7	850.0
Non-controlling interests	0.1	0.1
Total equity	827.8	850.1

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The comparatives as at 31 December 2022 have been restated for the adoption of the amendment to IAS 12, measurement period
adjustments in respect of business combinations and re-presented to split out certain balance sheet items and provide more clarity for the
year ended 31 December 2022



Cashflow highlights

- Capital expenditure primarily IT infrastructure, and lower than prior period which included key office fit outs
- Increase in interest paid reflects higher Euribor rates on the term loan
- Continued focus on working capital and cash management
- / Higher tax costs reflect increased scale and higher tax rates
- M&A costs below prior period, largely reflecting phasing of payments to H2 2023 and lower merger activity

£ millions	Six months ended 30 Jun 2023	Six months ended 30 Jun 2022
Operational EBITDA	36.5	30.1
Capital expenditure	(5.1)	(10.2)
Interest paid	(11.6)	(6.6)
Income tax paid	(10.7)	(7.4)
Free cashflow before change in working capital	9.1	5.9
Change in working capital ¹	(10.8)	(7.7)
Free cashflow	(1.7)	(1.8)
Mergers & Acquisitions	(0.3)	(125.6)
Other	2.8	9.9
Movement in net debt	0.8	(117.5)
Opening net debt	(110.2)	(18.0)
Net debt	(109.4)	(135.5)
Net debt to pro-forma operational EBITDA	0.9x	1.2x

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^{1.} Working capital includes movement on receivables, payables, principal elements of lease payments and depreciation of ROU assets



2023 Guidance

2022 Proforma net revenue¹

c.£908m

2023 Net revenue

Expected to be down like-for-like on prior year

Trading has been slow over the summer months

Net finance expense

c.£37m (cash c.£28m)
Increased due to various FX movements

Effective tax rate 24-26% expected

DPS

The Board will consider a dividend of 1p when the final results for 2023 have been determined

EBITDA margin

12-13.5% targeted²

Heavily H2 and particularly Q4 weighted

Cash contingent consideration

c.£95m in H2

No further material payments due after 2023

2023 will be heavily Q4 weighted. Medium term prospects remain good

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Pro-forma net revenue relates to unaudited full year non-statutory and non-GAAP consolidated net revenue in constant currency as if the Group had existed in full for the year and have been prepared under comparable GAAP with no consolidation eliminations in the pre-acquisition period and has been adjusted for recent FX rates (e.g. August YTD \$1.245/£, September to December \$1.27/£)

This is a target, not a profit forecast



Chapter 2

Market Momentum

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2023 More challenging growth in our addressable markets

Digital Media Spend is projected to grow at 8.9% to \$600m in 20231

The 5 main platforms are forecast to grow ad revenue 10.6% to \$420m in 2023 and 14% to \$480m in 2024²

Digital Transformation Service revenues at peers projected to grow 2% in 2023 and 14% in 2024³

Al is already a \$197bn market growing at 44%⁴ Influencer spend will be \$34bn in 2023, up 17%⁵

Top 25 Agency Groups had 2022 revenues of \$130bn, S⁴ Capital has 1% market share, up 37%⁶

"Ultimately, we think Digital Transformation is still in its early stages, with long-term secular growth tailwinds, which we believe extend well beyond the current economic cycle."7

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Groupm, Dentsu, eMarketer 2023

Morgan Stanley, Aug 2023

TD Cowan (Globant, EPAM, Endave, Thoughtworks) Aug 23 GrandView Research, Artificial Intelligence Market Report

PQ Media Sept 2023

Franklin Templeton, Tech Sector 2023 Outlook



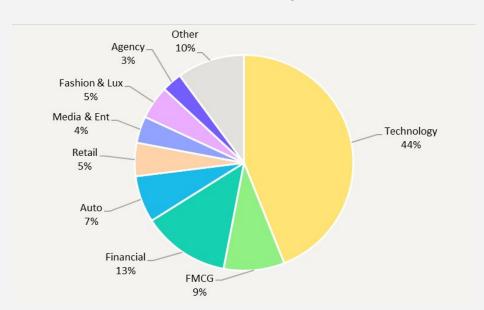
Chapter 3

Client Analysis

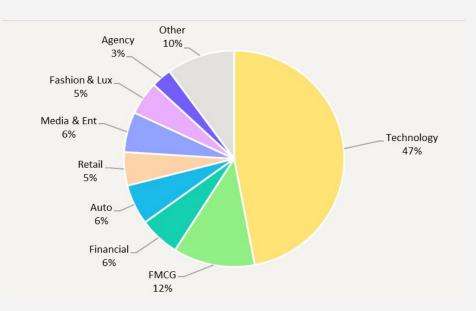


Our client portfolio

HY2023 Client Categories

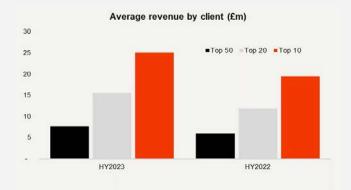


HY2022 Client Categories





An attractive & growing client base



	HY2023		HY2022			
	No of Clients	% of Revenue	Cumulative %	No of Clients	% of Revenue	Cumulative %
> £10m	8	45%	45%	5	34%	34%
£5-10m	9	12%	57%	6	11%	45%
£1-5m	37	17%	74%	51	23%	68%
£0.1-1m	357	20%	94%	394	24%	92%



Chapter 4

Content

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a year of Layoffs Are Really Telling Us About the Economy Layoffs Are Really Telling Us About the Economy About the Economy

more to do.





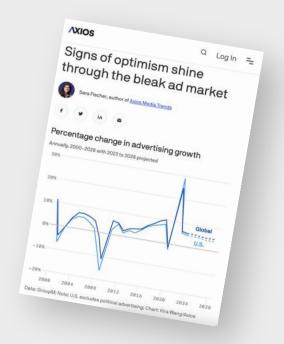
Growth has slowed across tech and within local markets, while macro pressures (budget conservatism, delayed H2 planning among some brands, client concern about potential recession) have brought longer sales cycles. Still, we continue to see growth and progress with scaled and selected portfolio clients. While these trends seem to be impacting our industry broadly, our focus is on matching costs to revenues with







revving up our revenue gains



We've evolved our growth model and are doubling down on developing select regions like Latam, Middle East and APAC. We are seeing continued growth in scaled clients, heavily weighted to tech, and eyeing significant strategic opportunities resulting from the launch of PlusOne. Our leading positioning in Al has opened up the first wave of net new logos and revenue. We are focussed on building the new business pipeline and more strategic up & cross selling.



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our latest plus one offering

→ We've further integrated our teams, expanding our single P&L offering to clients with best in class subject matter expertise. The latest example is Experience.Monks (built around Jam3), which has already resulted in sizable new projects for existing clients at CES, the Super Bowl and Complexcon, and net new AI revenue helping brands redefine their customer experience.













→ We're a significant way through our merger model, which should drive cost efficiencies in H2, we've brought costs and hiring under control by integrating our operational teams and have refined our structure to better reflect client need. We have reduced headcount and will continue to focus on aligning cost with revenue and eliminating duplication, we've added new senior talent in key markets, with a few more to come.









attracting people, partners



→ We're not just attracting best in class talent, we are also launching exciting new partnerships. We were first to the Sphere with YouTube and brought Scholastic to Roblox. We've also introduced new collaborative efforts with our partners, including the launch of Fan-Focused Al Highlights with NVIDIA, AWS and Adobe and tentpole content, including our *Generation Al* report co-authored with Salesforce and *Future of Loyalty* report with Reddit, Polygon and Salesforce.



emerging stronger Emoving forward to further our arout

→ It hasn't been an easy year to manage—but we will continue to use a tough year to implement changes that make us leaner, lighter with more levers to grow. We've spent this year optimizing internal teams and structure without negatively impacting levels of quality and service. And have put ourselves in a industry leading role by building out our Al vision, and turning that into a reality across our practices —efforts that will pay off in future growth as we enter the next wave of "software eating the world".



Chapter 5

Data&Digital Media

23



Data&Digital Media | 2023 2H Outlook

CLIENT TRADING

Client Spend Softness

Clients are cautious with media investments in 2H and seasonal Q4 spend. Lower commitment rate. Our percent of Media volume and Media Technology resale based business is likely to see more softness this season.

Leaner Client Teams

This trends is offset by clients controlling staffing investments and relying on seasonal support. Staff augmentation is helping our Transformations and Managed Services business.

Agency Consolidation

Agency consolidation trends continue. Simplification, reduction of partners can work in our favor with established large clients. Or, work the other way where non-differentiated work can be moved back to scaled agency partners.

Decision Timelines

Slower decision making has materially elongated our sales cycle shifting new business to end of year or 2024.

ACTIONS

Media OS and Org Design

Media OS & Audience platform updates to fuel automation and incorporate gen Al to inform media strategy, decisioning and optimization for clients.

Deeper data, tech, planning investment, and measurement cohesion within media teams, continue to desilo these functions.

Client Cross-Sell

Reinvigorated Client teams and account management layers that fulfill on the +1 strategy. Actively penetrating existing portfolio with new services (15 productized offers that are tailored to CMO challenges)

Staff Efficiencies

Hiring & staffing plans adjusted to balance weaker media spend.

Leaner and more efficient Al-enabled teams focused centrally coupled with scalable process.

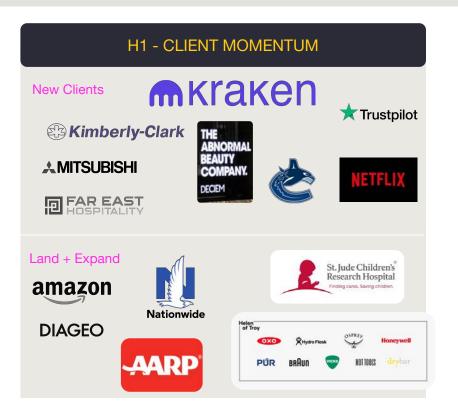
Hub Strategy

Bolster up our hub strategy for just-in-time resourcing without sacrificing quality performance.

Leveraging talent hubs in each region to ensure consistent coverage while insulating margin and rate cards. Deepening scale of hubs across all service capabilities to achieve economies of scale



Data&Digital Media | H1 2023



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP Main Beats | Importance of Data, AI, Customer Relationship Innovation

- Activating First-Party Data
- Revolutionizing Customer Relationships Through AI
- Unlock deep customer insights with a Data Cloud



Salesforce + MM| Media.Monks named launch partner for both Salesforce's Web3 and AI announcements (article)

Nina Haller Managing Director, DDM DACH on:

"What does modern marketing have to do with technology and how many people are still needed?" (Marken Award 2023)

2023)
Absatzwirtschaft | Brand Award 2023:
Top speakers on AI

10p Speakers on A



Data&Digital Media | H1 2023

OUR WORK



Global Expansion Measure.Monks offering



Ramping up our development of modularized enterprise-grade. cloud-based data and analytics products



Media OS updates to inform media strategy for clients



Investment in data & tech products to fuel our media practice



Increase stickiness among resale clients through cross-selling



Data **Foundations** Launch





Data Cloud Offering:

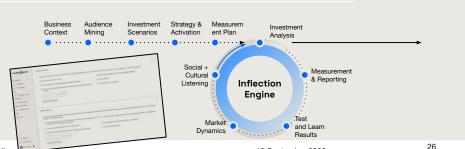
Accelerators for every deal stage





A "media product" that creates a solid and sustainable foundation, but tracks and monitors key inflection points when the market shifts and informs our teams when plans need to change.

This process informs every aspect of our team - from strategy, to messaging, to audience, to measurement. We call this: Inflection Planning





Data&Digital Media | Foundations 2024

PARTNERSHIPS



- #5 on Global Agency Rankings
- Announced as Strategic Launch Partner for Salesforce Web3
- Announced as Influential Partner in building GenAl
- Achieved Ridge Status for new Managed Partner Program



Formalized Walmart Connect & Full-Service Provider Partnership

amazonadvertising

Expanded partnership with new "Buy with Prime" offering

Selected as Partner for GCAS x Al Program



Hosting series of Hackathons with Google around emerging technologies

Established partnership to test GenAi on GCP

Data/Automation Partnership Development "Groundbreaker" Award won at



AUTOMATION

Launching Automation Consulting & Services in Market



- Media OS - Taxonomy Engine - Cross Platform Trafficking



Client Ex: E2E Campaign Automation

process inefficiencies admin needs

platform overheads

17K+ hours saved annually

Internal Automation Initiatives

71+

Automation services deployed



Launched Automation Enablement team to modernize work process within BOH infrastructure across pillars

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Launching Al Products and Services In Market



LLM powered products to "talk to your data" for media insights gathering and planning

Creative fatigue optimization

leveraging Generative AI, Data Science and ML to predict ad success on historical data



Internal Al Initiatives



Established Al Enablement leadership to expand ambassador program and introduce Al into Capabilities



Increased focus on developing software solutions for e-commerce. CRM, and creative



Chapter 6

Technology Services

18 September 2023

More new clients





Apex





Southwest'**♥**

JB Emerging Tech

We're Winning Together



Prospecting

→ 18 months of chasing

Connecting

→ Partnership with Experience.Monks

Landing

→ 60 daysLarge scale SOW+ Al opportunities

Expanding

90 days
Significant \$
expansion

30

More expertise in AI & Cloud and new ways to start.

New AI Engagements in H1 with:





Alert – Effectively measure and improve AI readiness at the enterprise.



Kwasi Ankomah – Head of Al

Aniruth Sarathy

- Head of Cloud



Spark! – Quickly align vision, opportunity, and outcomes to a blueprint for action.

18 September 2023

our capability expansion

Consulting

Consulting acts as a unifying strategy layer on our API model.

Expanded teams of management/business consultants are being deployed as billable resources to deliver immediate value to our clients while generating revenue and unlocking new opportunities – from day one.

Accessibility

Solutions to build intuitive and accessible digital products for all.

- 1. Accessibility Audits
- 2. Al-powered Accessibility
- 3. Training & Education

AI & ML

Becoming an Al-powered organization means rapid deployment of creative solutions for our clients and ourselves.

New Al Service Offerings

- Al Readiness Assessments: Identify risks and opportunities for adopting Al at the enterprise.
- Al Innovation Studios: Dedicated innovation teams for big bets.
- Rapid Discovery for Al: Define requirements and solutions fast.
- 4. **Al Workshops:** Facilitated activities to help define your Al strategy now.
- Bot-camps & Demos: Crash courses in AI with a perfectly tailored syllabus.

GPTGladiator

Score the best response to your prompt.



Refactor Bot

for better code, automated



DocRobot.ai

A new way to interact with PDFs.



Persona Generator

Create personas in one click.



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our first in-market Al product



DocRobot.ai

Effortlessly locate, condense, or interpret information while concealing any sensitive or confidential data.

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growing demand gen





Ben LeeChief Marketing Officer
@Formula.Monks



Patrick Ward
VP of Marketing
@Formula.Monks







new managing partners

our **new partners**





Oracle CloudWorld

- Private Al Roundtable Participant
- Partnership Accelerator
- Technical Certifications



Chapter 7

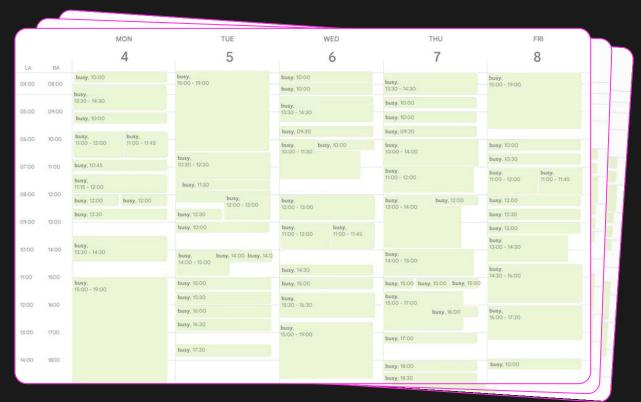
Artificial Intelligence

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Culture • Commerce • Technology

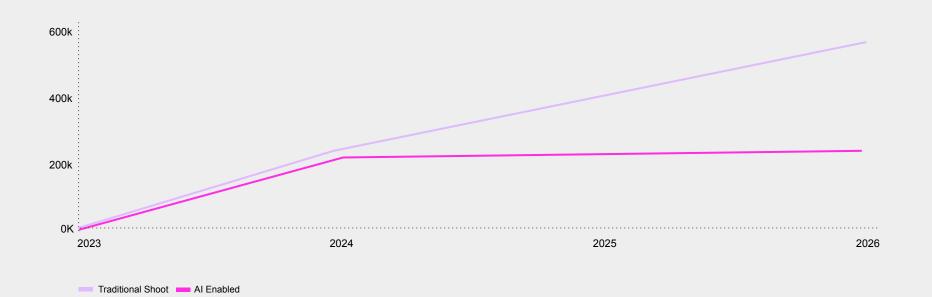
My calendar for the last 3 months



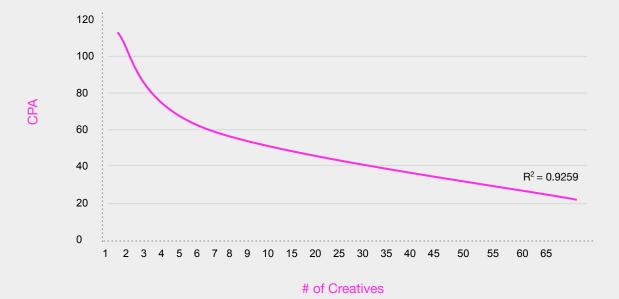
"Based on what they already have, yes, many jobs and agencies can be replaced"

CMO at a global CPG firm

Efficiency



Effectiveness

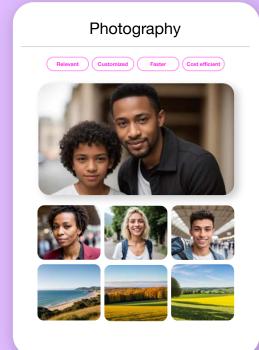


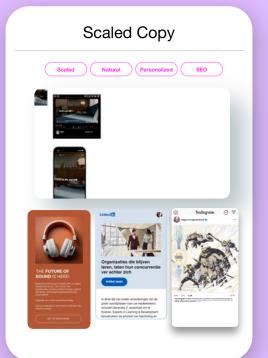
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Experience

Personalized Accessible Progressive Native Good value Sustainable Immediate Omnichannel Useful Entertaining

We're building pipelines







And partnerships

"Our collaboration with the Monks will help deliver a more engaging and personalized experience for brands and consumers"











ORACLE

DVIDIA

∞ Meta

salesforce

18 September 2023

yahoo!finance

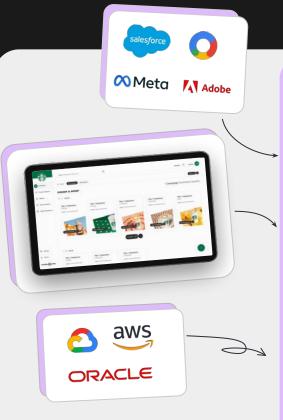
Media.Monks Revolutionizes the Fan Experience With Software-Defined Production and Al

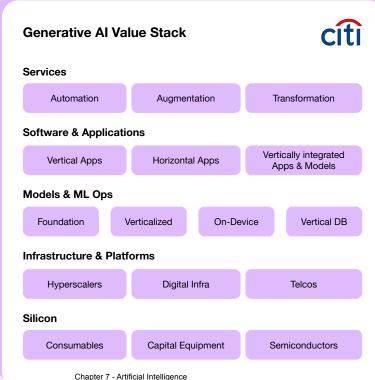
Driven by advances in technology from Adobe, Amazon Web Services and NVIDIA, this disruptive innovation moves Media. Monks' broadcast systems into a new arena

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 14, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Media.Monks, the purely digital operating brand of S4Capital plc, is announcing an AI offering that will infuse machine learning into its software-defined production solution to deliver fans hyper-personalized content across new media formats. Media.Monks will share more details alongside NVIDIA and Amazon Web Services on stage at the 2023 International Broadcasting Convention (IBC) from 15 – 18 September in Amsterdam, NL.



Across the value stack







We have the receipts



















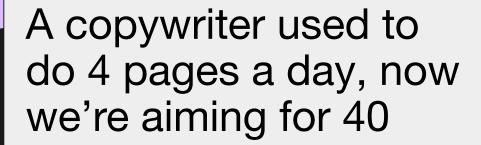






"A fifth of rich world firms do not even have a website"

The Economist





Louise Media.Monks

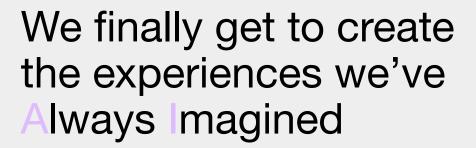
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We don't have to pull reports because now I can just talk to our data



Michael Data.Monks

S⁴ Capital plc Chapter 7 - Artificial Intelligence 18 September 2023





Vincent Experience.Monks

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CHECK OUT OUR LATEST REPORT



media .monks

Generation Al

The Path to Agile and Empowered Marketing Teams







Chapter 8

Summary and Outlook

18 September 2023



Summary and Outlook

- / Very mixed first half of 2023
- / Net revenue growth of 5% like-for-like, behind our expectation, reflecting challenging macro-economic conditions and client fear of recession
- Solid growth across scaled client base with top 20 clients' like-for-like revenue up 9% and top 50 up 11%
- Longer sales cycles particularly evident in Content, and especially with tech, local and regional clients
- / Profitability reflects slower topline growth and some people and indirect cost inflation and was below budget at £37 million
- Disciplined approach to cost management, and focus on efficiency and integration will affect H2 and Q4 in particular, with more to do. Number of Monks already now c.8550, down 5% on this time last year
- / Net debt of £109 million (versus £135 million at this time last year), better than expected due to timing of combination payments. Year end guidance remains £180 to 220 million
- / Inaugural dividend of at least 1 pence per share, depending on 2023 outturn, reflecting Board's confidence in our strategy
- Continued ESG focus on three areas: zero impact workspaces; sustainable work and diversity; equity and inclusion
- / Initial traction from AI conversations and initiatives is encouraging and we remain at the forefront leading this change
- / Revised full year net revenue target expected down like-for-like on prior year with operational EBITDA margins targeted at 12 to 13.5%1
- / We remain confident our talent, business model, strategy and focus on scaled and portfolio client relationships position us well for above industry average growth in the longer term with an emphasis on improving efficiency and margins, along with a focus on dividends and share buy backs



Chapter 9

Q&A

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Chapter 10

Appendix

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Appendix | Additional information

Guidance on adjusting items for 2023

- / Amortisation c.£50-55m
- / Share based payments c.£15-20m
- Acquisition, restructuring and other expenses c.£25-£30m (was £55-£65m, reduction due to lower contingent payments and revaluation of contingent consideration)
- Total adjusting items expected c.£90-£105m

Weighted average share count

- Expected weighted average share count for 2023 of c.650m²
- / Expected weighted average share count for 2024 of c.695m²

Shares Consideration Committed

- Deferred share issuance of c.14m shares in 2023 and c.36m in 2024, totalling c.50m
- Expected contingent consideration shares of c.65m in 2023 (assuming current share price for contingent issues in H2¹)

Cash Contingent Consideration

/ Expected cash contingent commitments of c.£95m in H2 2023

Invested Capital

- / Invested capital to date c.£1.1bn³
- / Invested capital plus 6% CAGR to date c.£1.3bn4

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Calculated using the closing share price on 15th September 2023 of 95.5p

^{2.} Estimated weighted average share count excluding any impact due to the incentive shares. Note this number will fluctuate depending on the share price applied to, and timing of contingent consideration shares

^{3.} Invested capital is the sterling value of capital injected into S4 Capital 2 Ltd which effectively mirrors the net proceeds of equity issuance by S4 Capital plc-plus the sterling value of all ordinary shares issued by S4 Capital plc as consideration for mergers and acquisitions

^{4.} Invested capital plus 6% CAĞR is the sterling value of invested capital as increased at a compound annual growth rate of 6% from the date of the injection into S4 Capital 2 Ltd which is effectively the date of any equity issuance by S4 Capital plc for cash and the date any consideration for mergers and acquisition became due up to 6 September 2023



Thank you

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