

## H1 2024 Results

19 September 2024

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### H1 financial headlines

Net revenue<sup>1</sup>

£376.1m

- -15.6% reported
- -13.5% like-for-like<sup>2</sup>

Operational EBITDA<sup>3</sup>

£30.1m

- -17.5% reported
- -8.2% like-for-like

**Operational EBITDA Margin<sup>3</sup>** 

8.0%

vs. 8.2% prior year reported vs. 7.5% prior year like-for-like

Adjusted operating profit<sup>4</sup>

£24.8m

vs. £30.6m prior year

Adjusted EPS4

1.2p

vs. 1.3p prior year

Net debt at 30 June<sup>5</sup>

£182.9m

2.2x leverage<sup>5</sup> vs. £109.4m prior year

- 1. Net revenue is revenue less direct costs
- 2. Like-for-like is a non-GAAP measure related to 2023 being restated to show the unaudited numbers for the previous period of the existing and acquired businesses consolidated for the same months as in 2024 applying currency rates as used in 2024
- 3. Operational EBITDA is operating profit or loss adjusted for acquisition related expenses, non-recurring items (primarily acquisition payments tied to continued employment, amortisation of business combination intangible assets and restructuring and other one-off expenses) and recurring items (share-based payments) and includes right-of-use assets depreciation. It is a non-GAAP measure management uses to assess the underlying business performance. Operational EBITDA margin is operational EBITDA as a percentage of net revenue
- 4. Adjusted figures are adjusted for non-recurring and recurring items as defined above
- 5. Net debt excludes lease liabilities. Net debt leverage is calculated as net debt / pro forma 12 month Operational EBITDA

### **Income statement**

- Net revenue down -13.5% like for like, reflecting continued global macroeconomic uncertainty, higher interest rates and client caution particularly amongst our large technology clients, along with expected significantly lower activity with one Technology Services client
- Operating expenses reduced -14.4%. Disciplined approach to cost management maintained. Number of Monks now c.7550, down -11.7% on June 2023
- Operational EBITDA of £30.1m in line with expectations

	H1 2024 £m	H1 2023 £m
Amortisation	23.0	24.2
Acquisition expenses	(2.1)	2.1
Share based payments	3.8	7.1
Restructuring and other expenses	3.8	3.6
Total of adjusting items	28.5	37.0

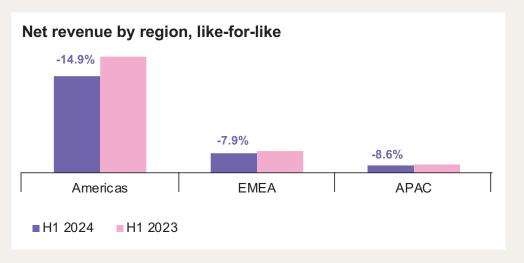
	H1 2024 £m	H1 2023 Restated <sup>1</sup> £m	Change Reported	Change Like-for-Like
Revenue	422.5	517.1	-18.3%	-16.2%
Net revenue	376.1	445.5	-15.6%	-13.5%
Operating expenses	(342.7)	(407.5)	-15.9%	-14.4%
Acquisition, restructuring & other expenses	(1.7)	(5.7)	-70.2%	
Depreciation & amortisation	(35.5)	(38.8)	-8.5%	
Share of profit of joint ventures	0.1	0.1	+0.0%	
Total operating expenses	(379.8)	(451.9)	-16.0%	-14.5%
Operational EBITDA	30.1	36.5	-17.5%	-8.2%
Operational EBITDA Margin	8.0%	8.2%	-20bps	+50bps
Operating loss	(3.7)	(6.4)	+42.2%	
Adjusting items	28.5	37.0	-23.0%	
Adjusted operating profit	24.8	30.6	-19.0%	
Net finance and other costs	(13.5)	(16.8)	-19.6%	
Loss before income tax	(17.2)	(23.2)	+25.9%	
Income tax credit	3.5	1.4	+150.0%	
Loss for the period	(13.7)	(21.8)	+37.2%	
Adjusted basic earnings per share (pence)	1.2	1.3	(0.1)	

The prior period figures have been restated to account for the recognition of deferred tax balances related to certain business combinations in the prior periods

### **Net revenue by practice and geography**

- Content had a difficult first half net revenue performance, reflecting ongoing caution and lower activity with some of our larger technology clients in particular
- Data&Digital Media performed as expected, with lower activity in the activation business line partly offset by growth in media agency of record
- Technology Services' net revenue decreased as anticipated with lower activity from one key client, as well as longer sales cycles for new business due to macroeconomic conditions
- · FX impacted reported growth, particularly USD to GBP

Net revenue	376.1	445.5	-15.6%	-13.5%
Technology Services	46.1	74.2	-37.9%	-36.6%
Data&Digital Media	95.7	106.6	-10.2%	-7.7%
Content	234.3	264.7	-11.5%	-9.3%
£millions	H1 2024	H1 2023	Change Reported	Change Like-for-like



## **Operational EBITDA by Practice**

- Content's operational EBITDA and operational EBITDA margin improved by +165.6% to £16.2m (+450bps to 6.9%) respectively, reflecting the benefit of action taken on costs in 2023 and H1 2024
- Data&Digital Media also saw operational EBITDA margin improvement (+330bps to 18.5%), with benefits from cost actions taken in 2023 and continued cost control
- Technology Services' operational EBITDA was challenged by the reduction in transformation revenue from one large client, noticeably impacting margin
- Central costs were down -27% vs. prior year period due to cost control
- FX impacted reported EBITDA, particularly USD to GBP

H1 2024	H1 2023	Change Reported	Chang Like-for-lik
16.2	6.8	+138.2%	+165.6%
17.7	16.3	+8.6%	+12.0%
5.7	26.5	-78.5%	-76.2%
(9.5)	(13.1)	+27.5%	+26.9%
30.1	36.5	-17.5%	-8.2%
6.9%	2.6%	+430bps	+450bps
18.5%	15.3%	+320bps	+330bps
12.4%	35.7%	-2,330bps	-2,050bps
8.0%	8.2%	-20bps	+50bps
	16.2 17.7 5.7 (9.5) <b>30.1</b> 6.9% 18.5%	16.2 6.8 17.7 16.3 5.7 26.5 (9.5) (13.1) 30.1 36.5 6.9% 2.6% 18.5% 15.3% 12.4% 35.7%	H1 2024       H1 2023       Reported         16.2       6.8       +138.2%         17.7       16.3       +8.6%         5.7       26.5       -78.5%         (9.5)       (13.1)       +27.5%         30.1       36.5       -17.5%         6.9%       2.6%       +430bps         18.5%       15.3%       +320bps         12.4%       35.7%       -2,330bps

### **Debt & balance sheet**

- 2024 H1 net debt £182.9m (versus £206m at Q1 2024) after combination related payments of £9.7m in the first half
- Leverage at 2.2x
- £100m RCF remains undrawn
- The balance sheet has sufficient liquidity and long-dated maturities to facilitate future growth
- Current headroom against key covenant is comfortable<sup>1</sup>

£millions	Net debt £m	Facility	Undrawn £m	Maturity due date
Term loan	317.7	€375.0m	-	August 2028
RCF	-	£100.0m	100.0	August 2026
Other loans	0.2			
Cash	(135.0)			
Net debt	182.9		100.0	
Net debt to pro-forma operational EBITDA	2.2x			

The facility agreement imposes certain covenants on the Group. S4Capital Group will ensure that the net debt will
not exceed 4.5:1 of the pro-forma earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation, measured at the
end of any relevant period of 12 months ending each semi-annual date in a financial year, as defined in the facility
agreement. During the half year S4Capital Group complied with the covenants set in the loan agreement

£millions	As at 30 Jun 2024	As at 31 Dec 2023 Restated <sup>2</sup>
Non-current assets		
Intangible assets	1,043.3	1,072.9
Right-of-use assets	42.4	45.8
Property, plant and equipment	19.7	21.9
Deferred tax assets	26.1	24.7
Others	9.9	13.9
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	366.2	407.5
Current tax assets	7.7	4.9
Cash and cash equivalents	135.0	145.7
Total assets	1,650.3	1,737.3
Non-current liabilities		
Deferred tax liabilities	(20.0)	(24.1)
Loans and borrowings	(313.1)	(320.9)
Others	(40.8)	(45.8)
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	(378.8)	(418.1)
Contingent consideration and holdbacks	(4.9)	(18.2)
Others	(14.8)	(18.3)
Total liabilities	(772.4)	(845.4)
Net assets	877.9	891.9
Attributable to owners of the company	877.8	891.8
Non-controlling interests	0.1	0.1
Total equity	877.9	891.9

The prior period figures have been restated to account for the recognition of deferred tax balances related to certain business combinations in the prior periods

### **Cash flow highlights**

- · Capital expenditure is mainly investment in IT infrastructure
- Increase in interest paid reflects higher Euribor rates on the term loan
- Decrease in tax paid reflects a lower tax base versus prior year period
- H1 2024 included £3.7m of restructuring costs, mainly related to rationalisation, and £1.9m of spend on ERP implementation
- Continued focus on working capital and receivables. Working capital inflow of £4.2m vs outflow of £6.4m in the prior year period
- Significant M&A payments are now completed, after £9.7m in the first half

£millions	H1 2024	H1 2023
Operational EBITDA	30.1	36.5
Capital expenditure <sup>1</sup>	(4.1)	(5.1)
Interest and facility fees paid	(15.2)	(12.8)
Interest Received	1.2	-
Income tax paid	(7.5)	(10.7)
Restructuring and other one-off expenses paid	(5.6)	(3.2)
Change in working capital <sup>2</sup>	4.2	(6.4)
Free Cashflow	3.1	(1.7)
Mergers & Acquisitions	(9.7)	(0.3)
Share Buy Backs	(2.5)	-
Other	7.0	2.8
Movement in net debt	(2.1)	0.8
Opening net debt	(180.8)	(110.2)
Net debt	(182.9)	(109.4)
Net debt to pro-forma operational EBITDA	2.2x	0.9x

<sup>1.</sup> Includes purchases of intangible assets, purchase of property, plant and equipment and security deposits

<sup>2.</sup> Working capital primarily includes movement on receivables, payables, principal elements of lease payments and depreciation of right-of-use assets

### 2024 Guidance

### Net revenue<sup>1</sup>

Targeted to be down on prior year<sup>2</sup>, to a greater extent than assumed in May

Client caution likely to persist and wider market uncertainty

### 2024 Operational EBITDA<sup>3</sup>

Targeted to be broadly similar like-for-like to 2023<sup>2</sup>

Heavily H2 weighted with normal seasonality supported by further cost saving actions

### **Practice outlook**

Content profitability expected to improve due to cost reductions

DDM expects similar top and bottom-line performance to 2023

Technology Services expects challenging year

### **Net finance expense**

c.£30m (cash c.£28m)

### **Effective tax rate**

30 - 32% expected

### Net debt

c.£150m - £190m expected

Reflects no further material cash contingent consideration payments after c.£10m in Q1

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# 2 Market Momentum

## 2024 strong growth in digital media, Tech Services flat

Digital media spend

Growth in 20231

+7.8%

Projected growth in 2024<sup>1</sup>

+6.9% to \$552bn

Ad revenue growth - 5 main platforms

Q2 2024

+15%

2024 forecast<sup>2</sup>

+15% to \$497bn

**Digital Transformation Service** revenues at peers

2023 growth

+5.2%

2024 projected growth<sup>3</sup>

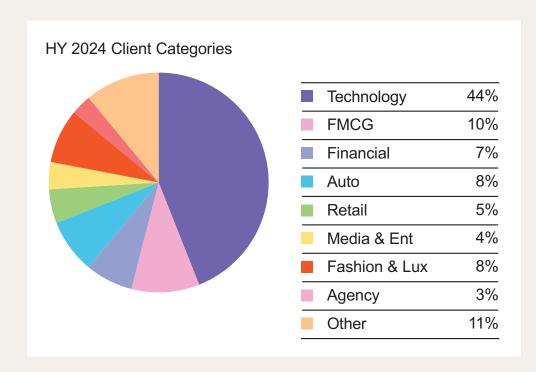
-0.25%

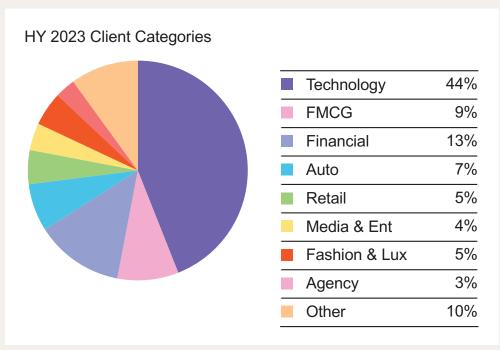
<sup>1.</sup> Groupm, Dentsu, 2024

Morgan Stanley, Aug 2024 (Alphabet, Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, Snap Ad Revenues)
 Company Reports (Globant, EPAM, Endava, Thoughtworks, CI&T, Accenture) Aug 24

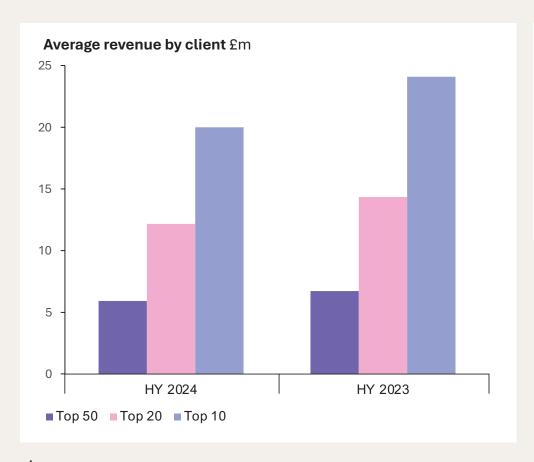


### **Our Client Portfolio**





## An attractive & growing client base

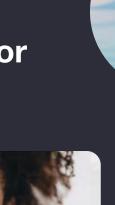


		HY 2024			HY 2023		
£millions	No of clients	% of revenue	Cumulative %	No of clients	% of revenue	Cumulative %	
>£10m	6	39%	39%	8	45%	45%	
£5–10m	5	10%	49%	8	12%	56%	
£1–5m	45	23%	72%	38	18%	74%	
£0.1–1m	321	22%	94%	353	20%	94%	

# 4 Artificial Intelligence



## A superpower for creativity.



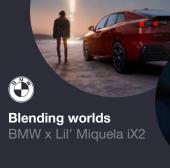


**Unlocking new experiences** NEP Kiki virtual sign language











Monks 15 Minutes of Now

SALES



Opening a new sales pipeline through Adobe's Executive Program offers access on both product and services levels.

This partnership allows business leaders to collaborate directly with Adobe's top executives, fostering joint business development that is aimed at C-suite executives and executive committees (ExCo).

LAUNCHING PARTNER

### Joint Launch Brand Model Practice



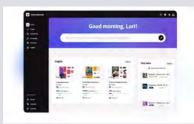
MONKS.FLOW

### Monks.Flow Powered by Adobe



FIRST IS FIRST

## First to implement Gen Studio



STRATEGIC SALES

## New Whoppers on the horizon



CO-SELLING IN THE REGIONS

## Expanding our outbound sales with 100's people



CREATIVE CLOUD

## First Access to FireFly Beta Features & Training



# None of it matters if we don't change the economics of digital advertising

FACTS & FINDINGS - CMOs

Companies need 10-100 times more content than is currently available.

You recently might have seen

## A world-class marketing engine for a world-famous brand: GM

• • •

Monks will "bring a modern approach to real-time, efficient content development" and a "a significant change in the way that we're doing business."

Molly Peck | Chief Transformation Officer GM













As GM's global 'Foundational Agency', we bring simplicity, consistency, scale and cost savings to how content is created through technology (Adobe), automation (Al) and best-in-class digital creative and craft.







By E.J. Schultz. Published on June 21, 2024.



# A new model orchestration of tech & talent

## rapid

Technology: to make you faster & create more.



& real

The **best** talent: to deliver outcomes, with **less** headcount



Wonks Monks.Flow Proprietary & Confidential

## @monks.flow

Monks Al Brand Solutions Proprietary & Confidential













# 10+ applications, infinite workflow customization





PERSONA









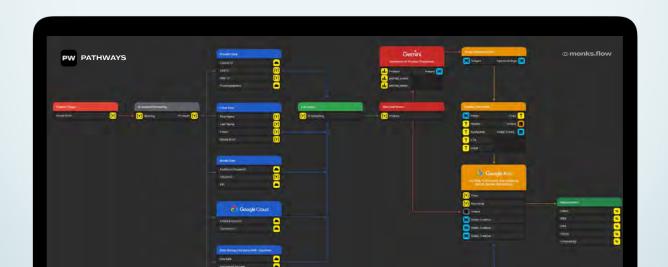




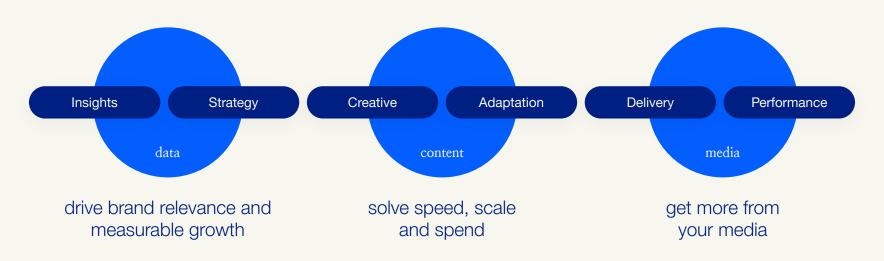
Monks Monks.Flow Proprietary & Confidential



# Pathways is the powerful workflow editor inside monks.flow



## Supercharging the big 6: Change how work gets done with AI and automation at scale



# The Impossible

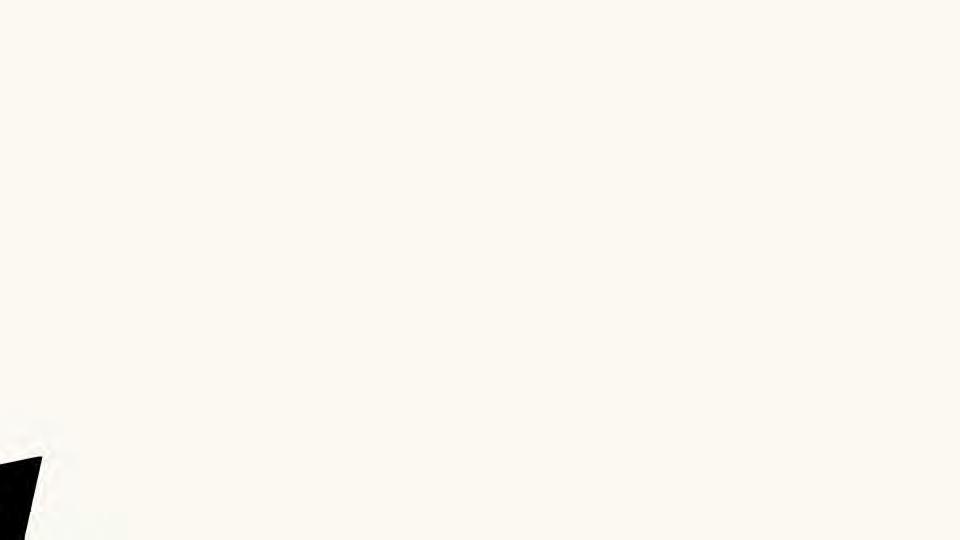
Ad

Google

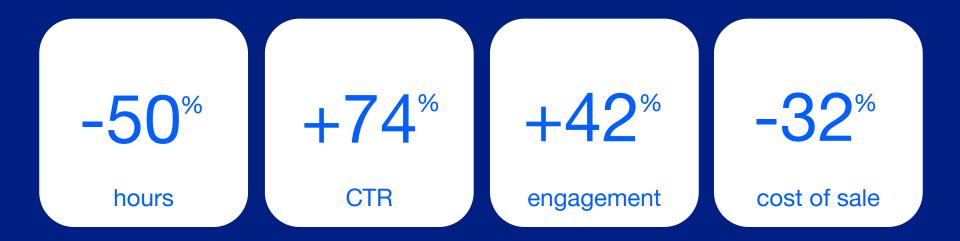
Hatch

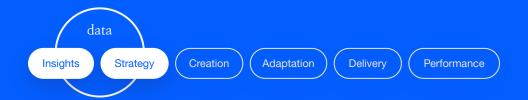
media .monks





# Delivering *supercharged creative and media services*, more affordable for any business.





# Reveal cultural insights, trend and pattern reporting

Build campaign strategies alongside virtual customers. Conduct virtual focus groups, validate insights, and refine creative.



Insights

Strategy

Creation

Adaptation

Delivery

Performance

# Build campaign strategies alongside virtual customers. Conduct virtual focus groups, validate insights, and refine creative.

powered by



PERSONA ONE OF THE STRATEGY APPS

Use cases

### **Direct Audience Insights**

Deep insights into customer sentiment without lengthy surveys. Engage directly with your audience to identify key messages.

### **Scenario Planning**

Test different strategies by simulating various business scenarios by analyzing historical data and predicting potential future outcomes.

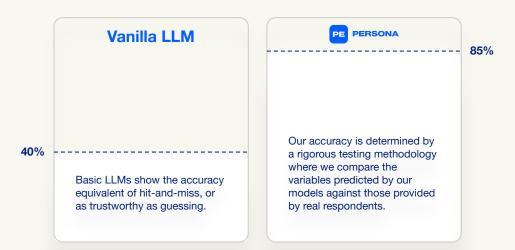


### **Media Mix Modelling**

Use AI to model the potential impact of different media strategies, identifying the optimal mix that will deliver the highest ROI.



# Our models consistently deliver over 85% accuracy in predicting consumer behavior & preferences.





Creation

Adaptation

Delivery

Performance

# Enhance existing datasets, leading to more informed decisions, brand specific answers & better targeting.

### Off the shelf data







Get started with one of our data partners, and hit the ground running. Each provider comes with its unique set of insights and markets.

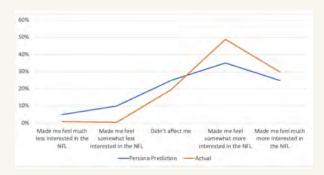
### **Additional data**

social listening / 1P CRM data / campaign results / customer reviews

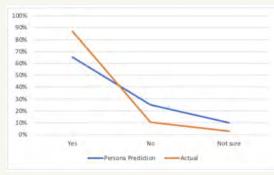
Utilize additional data to enhance your results. Get richer and more specific answers matching your specific use case.

Insights Strategy Creation Adaptation Delivery Performance

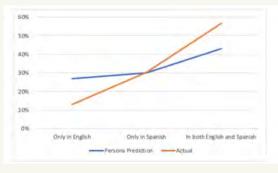
### **Results**



Mean Absolute Error = (4% + 10% + 5% + 15% + 5%) / 5 = 7.8%



Mean Absolute Error = (23% + 15% + 5%) / 3 = 14.33%



Mean Absolute Error = (15% + 0% + 15%) / 3 = 10%

921.
accurate

85%.

90%.



## Identify key drivers across product portfolio

Rapidly model your core and trending business drivers across business, markets, brands and products.

## Forecast growth across portfolio & markets

See how future investments play out across different scenarios, factoring in global economic, competitive, price, risk, PR, and advertising data.

### Gain sales & save on media investments

Make the most out of each spend allocation. See gains in media performance across digital, IRL, and complex mixes.





# Create and adapt high quality content at speed and scale.

Multicultural moments and audiences demand a scaled content model



High fidelity content origination





Create and adapt high quality content at speed and scale





single source product variations through Digital Twins



# We have a global roster of the finest *AI artist.monks* directors



Leilanni Todd, Caleb Ward, Martin Haerlin, Gerry Martinez, Diego Ante, Ronnie Allman, and many more Visit artist.monks.com to view the full roster.











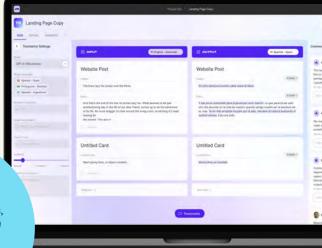


# Deliver and test high-quality\* content variation for regions, cultures and affinity groups

powered by TR TRANSLATE 0

ONE OF MANY CUSTOMIZABLE FLOWS

\*In a recent client test run across 6 languages, **Translate** ranked 1st in translation raw output quality against other industry players.



#### **Use cases**

### Simplified, Trustworthy Globalisation

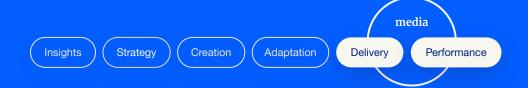
Accelerate workflow to obtain high-quality translation into dozens of languages, in a fraction of traditional timings.

### **Copy Versioning**

From one master copy, derive same-language copy variations to fit specific channels or funnel stages.

#### Multi-language Brand Guardianship

Control variants such as target audience and tone of voice, while still leveraging existing glossaries and translation memories for consistency.



# Automate content management & boost ad performance



Intelligent Syndication ad placements





Integrating media insights into content versioning





Increasing brand quality and consistent

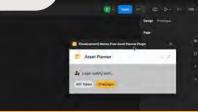


## Asset planner Step-by-Step

1. Import / Build your asset plan

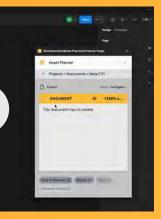
2. Connect your asset planner in Monks.Flow to your asset planner Figma plugin

The Summer Edit		***	2
New Summer Sty			
Summer New Arr			
Fresh Summer St	4	***	



3. Select the assets from your asset plan you want to create.







4. Wait for the assets to be finished, adjust where needed and export our or back into Monks.Flow

Thosa

# 5 Summary and Outlook

### **Summary and Outlook**

- H1 profitability as anticipated, £30.1m EBITDA
- H1 net revenue decrease of -13.5% like-for-like, reflecting continued global macroeconomic uncertainty and high interest rates. Client caution persisted, particularly among our technology clients, along with the expected significantly lower transformation activity from one of our larger Technology Services clients
- Improvement in operational EBITDA margin in Content (+450 bps) and DDM (+330bps) due to cost actions taken in 2023 and H1 2024
- We maintain a disciplined and active approach to managing our cost base, with an increasing focus on driving efficiency across the Company as well as utilisation and pricing
- Number of Monks now c.7,550 down around 12% vs. H1 2023
- Net debt of £183m is after £10m combination payments settled in Q1. We have now completed all material M&A payments for prior combinations. Our targeted range for net debt at year end remains £150m - £190m

- Rebranded to Monks and we are streamlining all our current capabilities into two practices: Marketing Services and Technology Services
- We have achieved B Corp status and continued to make progress in the three areas of our ESG strategy: zero impact workspaces; sustainable work and diversity, equity and inclusion
- We are capitalising on our prominent Al positioning, which has been key to recent new business wins
- We maintain our profit target<sup>1</sup> for the year of broadly similar operational EBITDA to 2023 on a like-for-like basis. We target net revenue to be down year on year, and to a greater extent than assumed in May, given the outlook for Technology Services and continuing global macroeconomic uncertainty
- We remain confident our strategy, business model and talent, together with scaled client relationships position us well for growth in the longer term, with an emphasis on deploying free cash flow to shareowner returns, now all significant combination payments are behind us

<sup>1.</sup> This is a target, not a forecast or a profit forecast S<sup>4</sup>Capital plc H1 2024 Results

6 Q&A



### **Appendix**

Guidance on adjusting items for 2024

Amortisation

c.£50m-£55m

Share based payment

c.£10m

Acquisition, restructuring and other expenses

c.£20m-£30m

Total adjusting items expected

c.£80m-£95m

### Weighted average share count

Expected weighted average share count for 2024 of

c.675m<sup>1</sup>

Expected weighted average share count for 2025 of

c.685m<sup>1</sup>

### **Share consideration committed**

Issuance of deferred shares of c.36m shares in 2024 and c.57m in 2025, totalling

c.93m

2024 expected contingent consideration shares of

c.1m

### **Cash contingent consideration**

Cash contingent consideration payments of

c.£10m settled in Q1 2024 and

c.£1m in 2025, totalling c.£11m

**Invested Capital** 

Invested capital to date

c.£1.1bn<sup>2</sup>

Invested capital plus 6% CAGR to date

c.£1.4bn<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1.</sup> Estimated weighted average share count excluding any impact due to the incentive shares

Invested capital is the sterling value of capital injected into \$4 Capital 2 Ltd which effectively mirrors the net proceeds of equity issuance by \$4 Capital plc-plus the sterling value of all ordinary shares issued by \$4 Capital plc as consideration for mergers and acquisitions

<sup>3.</sup> Invested capital plus 6% CAGR 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 20 August 2024

# Thank you



