



# FY 2023 earnings

Analyst and Investor Meetings

13 March 2024

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This document contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, including references, concerning the Group's expected growth and profitability in the future which may significantly impact the expected performance indicated in the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties are linked to factors out of the control of the Company and not precisely estimated, such as market conditions or competitors' behaviors. Any forward-looking statements made in this document are statements about Believe's beliefs and expectations and should be evaluated as such.

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## Today's presenters



**Denis Ladegaillerie**

**Founder & Chief Executive  
Officer**



**Xavier Dumont**

**Chief Financial and Strategy  
Officer**

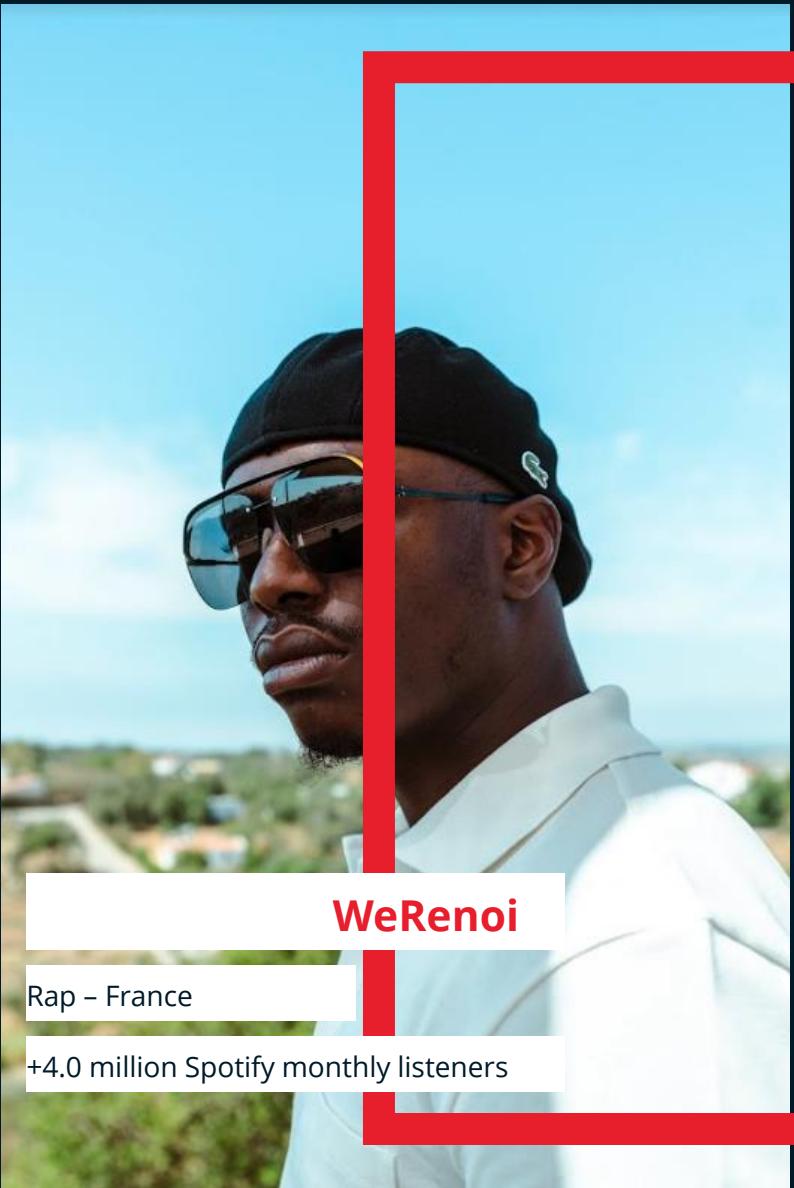
## Continuing to invest and innovate to build the best platform While increasing profitability

### Continuing to build the best artist & label development platform

- Investing in strong local teams to source, develop & break artists to the top
- Creating more value for artists and labels at all levels
- Differentiating through innovation in product, technology and people training

### Delivering on growth & profitability thanks to ability to adapt investments to growth

- Adjusted organic growth of +19.5% (organic growth 14.4%, embedded market FX of -5.1%)
  - Supported by resilient structural growth trends for paid streaming
  - In adverse ad-funded streaming market and currency evolution
- Adjusted EBITDA margin of 5.7%, up +110bps YoY



WeReno

Rap - France

+4.0 million Spotify monthly listeners

**FY'23 highlights: on track to  
build the best technology-  
enabled music company**

# Building market share at the top across a greater variety of music genres in European countries

**Believe's differentiated approach to artists development acknowledged by the music industry and listeners**

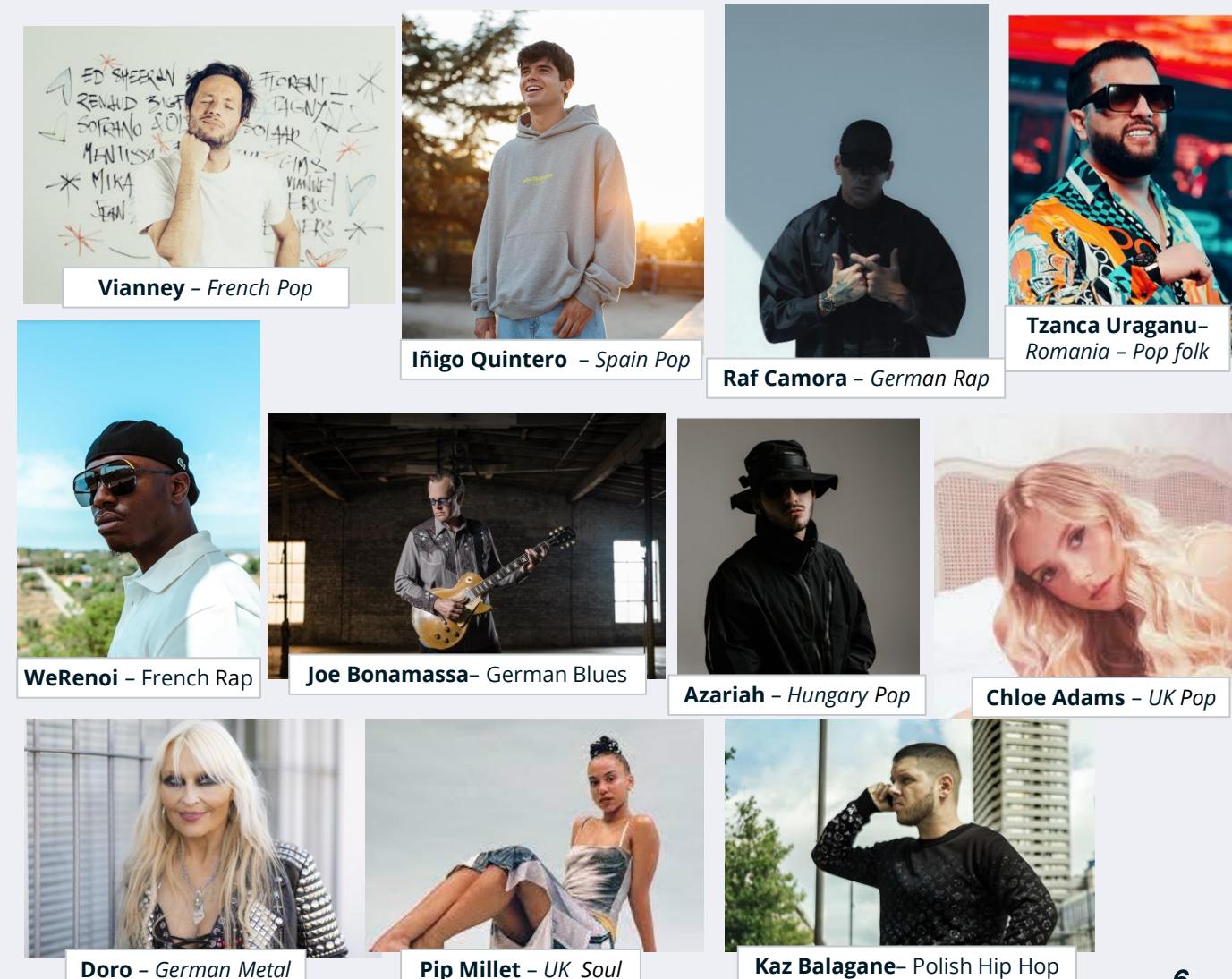
**France: 42 albums in Top200** in the annual local charts

**Germany: 48 Singles in Top100** in the local charts in their release week

**UK: consumption up +394%**, 30m singles sold, 35bn streams

**Spain: #1 Global Spotify charts** for Iñigo Quintero song "Si no Estás"

**Eastern Europe:** strong pipe of new signings and renewals with increased number of artists entering top charts.



# Celebrating 1<sup>st</sup> decade in Asia by expanding footprint in Q4'23

## Strengthening a leadership position already at scale

### Expanding capabilities in China

**2023 outcome from accelerated investment**

**Believe Team of 80 people in 5 offices** across the market's largest cities, representing:

**300 labels**, including the largest independent label by catalog and size and **above 250 artists**

**5 NetEase music awards** for the Chinese rapper Capper



### Confirming leadership in India

**Key 2023 data**

**192,842 album releases**

**72.5bn streams**

**66 unique songs** in local charts across all language charts & apps

Reinforcing leadership in the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Indian (Punjabi) genre with **the acquisition of White Hill Music's catalog** in Dec'23



### Launching full Offer in Japan

**Key Highlights**

Establishment of **Believe's Japanese subsidiary** in Tokyo and **launch of Premium Solutions** in October

**Launch of 'PLAYCODE'**, a new imprint dedicated to the growing Japanese hip-hop music scene

Signing some Japan's leading acts: **Yellow Bucks, Red Eye, and Issei Uno Fifth**

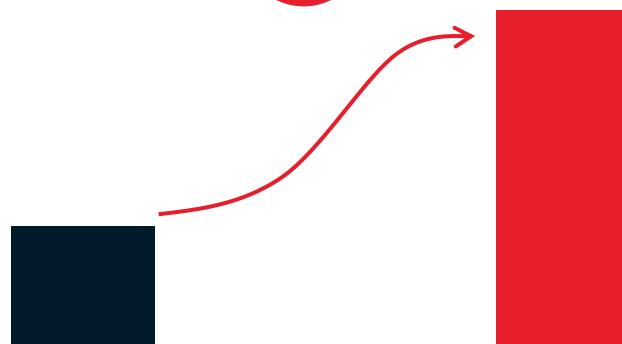


## High-quality of service driving strong performance of labels served by Believe, and secure solid level of renewals and new signings

### Labels served by Believe grew faster than the market

Performance of labels partnering with Believe versus market growth in FY'23

+35%



\*Labels served by Believe's Label and Artist Solutions (excl. contracts that have been terminated since January 2022 and the contracts on boarded since January 2023)

### Examples of Tier1 labels signings – across regions and across music genres

L-NE



**LINE - France**

Techno label  
234 tracks in back catalog



**DK Produções - Brazil**

Funk label  
5m monthly listeners

**Royal Otis -UK**

Pop indie label  
2,2m monthly listeners

**IN SYNC MUSIC**

MAHOGANY RECORDINGS

**Mahagony - UK**

YT channel, record label  
917,000 subscribers



**Zero to infinity**

Largest Phonk label WW  
5m monthly listeners

# TuneCore Accelerator Program: a new marketing program launched Q4'23 designed to support self-releasing artists development

01

Drive music discovery

02

Expand audiences

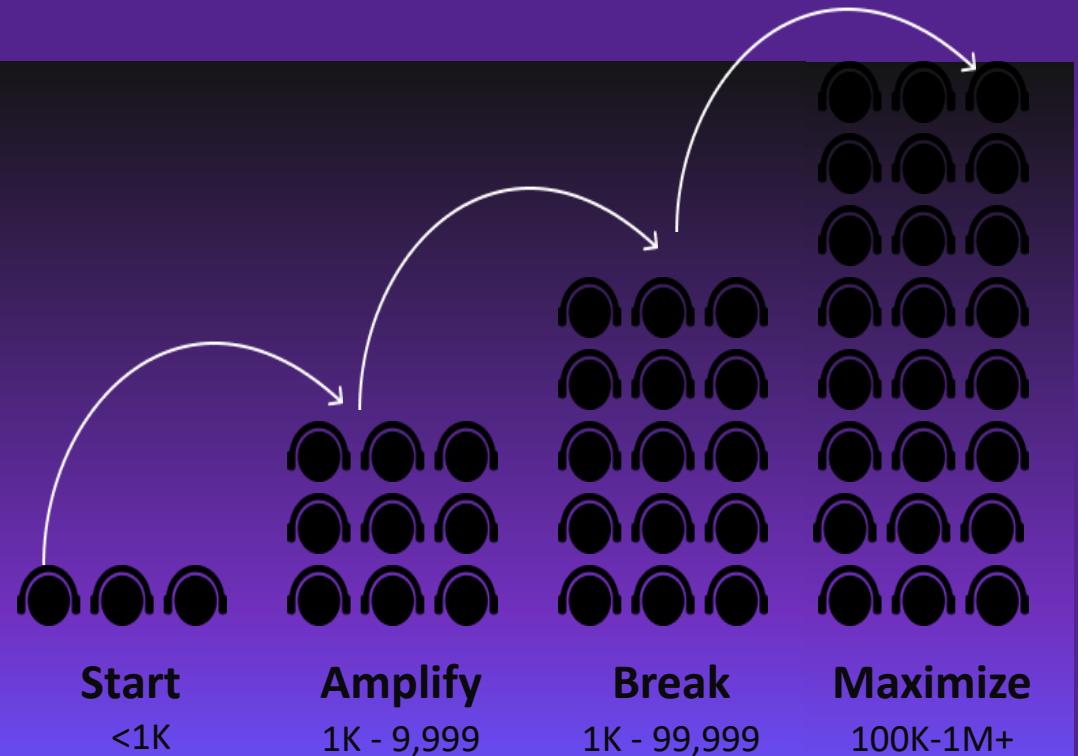
03

Deepen engagement



*The program is a revenue share model: TuneCore retain 20% of digital music sales and pay 80% to the artist.*

Enabling self-releasing artists to access more rapidly the upper segment



# In line with its CSR program *Shaping Music for Good*, Believe is committed to develop a diverse and inclusive work environment



## GENDER REPRESENTATIVITY

50%

Female comex members

39%

Female Managers



## SPEAK-UP & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

8.6/10

“At Believe, people of all backgrounds are accepted for who they are”

Your Voice 4 results – Dec 2023



## EQUAL & FAIR RECOGNITION

99/100

2024 Gender Index France results (2023 data) – 3rd year in the row



## EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

94%

Training rate – in average 11 hours per trained employee



**FY'23 financials: delivering on revenue growth and profitability improvement in a context impacted by currency headwinds**

## FY'23 key financial indicators: an annual performance affected by currency headwinds but delivering on objectives presented at the IPO

### +15.7% Revenue Growth

- Recovery of organic growth in Q4'23, in line with expectations with still currency headwinds.
- Positive paid streaming trends enhanced by price increases at several large DSPs and improved comparison base for ad-funded streaming.

### Adjusted organic growth of +19.5% in FY'23

- Embedded FX market effect of -5.1% in FY'23, reaching a peak in Q3 and declining since then.
- Organic growth of +14.4%,
- CAGR 2021-2023: +23.5%

### 5.7% Adjusted EBITDA margin

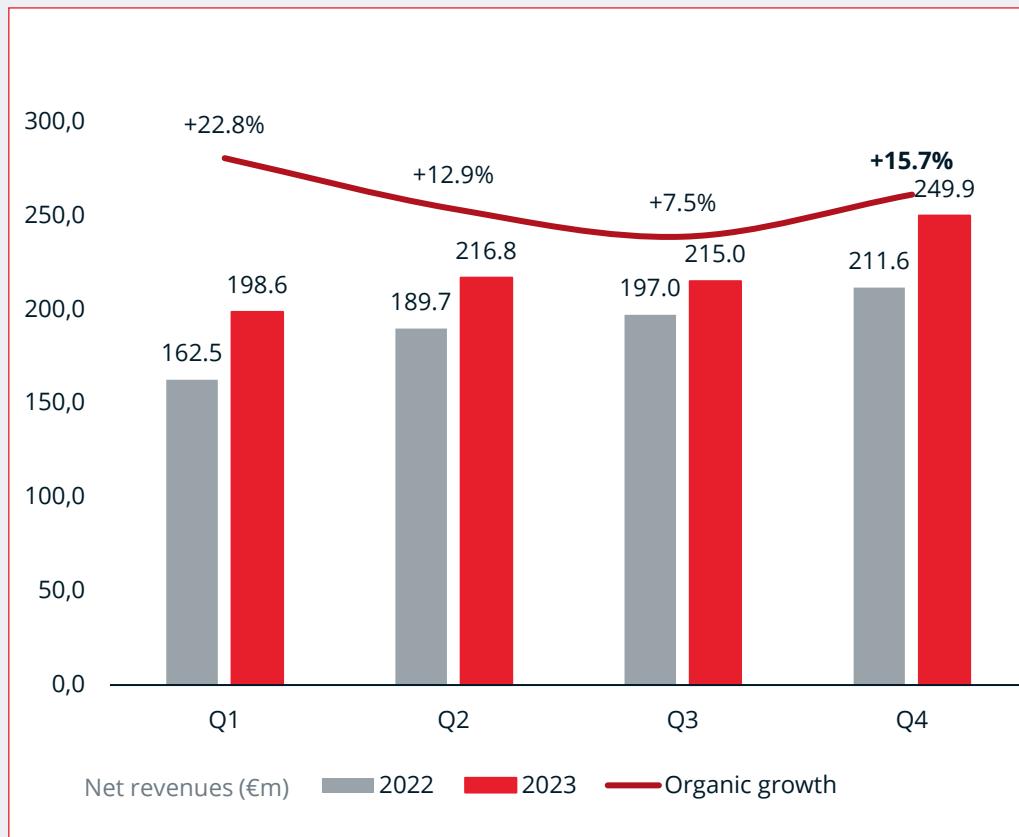
- Margin up +110bps vs. FY'22, at mid-term objective level.
- Improved segments' margin (+40bps), better Central Platform optimization thanks to controlled investment and efficiency actions.

### Free Cash Flow almost at breakeven, eg €(3.1)m

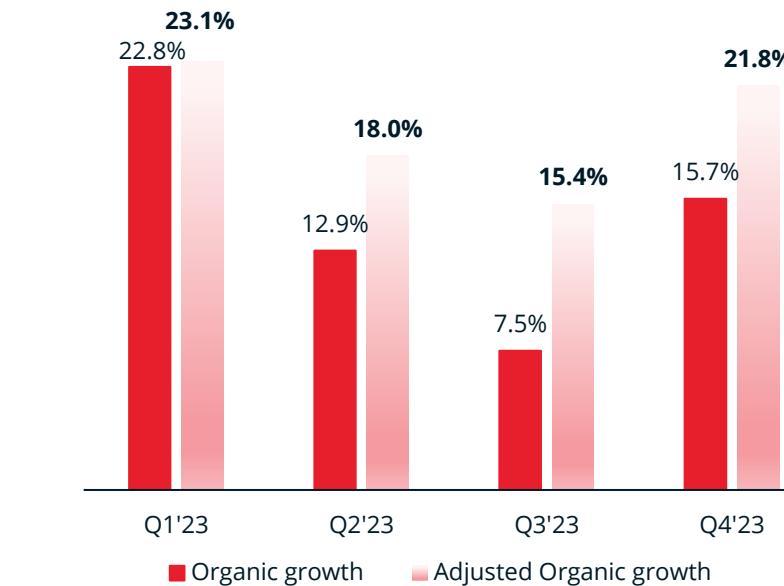
- Positive FCF generation in H2'23 partially offsetting the loss recorded in H1'23.
- Artists and Labels advances continuing to progress in H2'23 but at a more normalized pace.

## Q4'23 Organic growth up +15.7%, back to double digit increase despite currency headwinds which are still weighing down on Group's performance

Organic growth profile in line with expectations with return to double digit increase in Q4



Organic growth affected by embedded FY market effect captured in digital monetization



Notes: 1. Organic growth: revenue growth at constant perimeter and constant exchange rate. 2. Organic adjusted for embedded market FX derived from digital sales adjusted for the forex impact in each digital market in which the Group operates as digital monetization includes currency translation effects. Digital partners collect in local currencies Subscription and Advertising royalties, which are then reversed to Believe in euros.

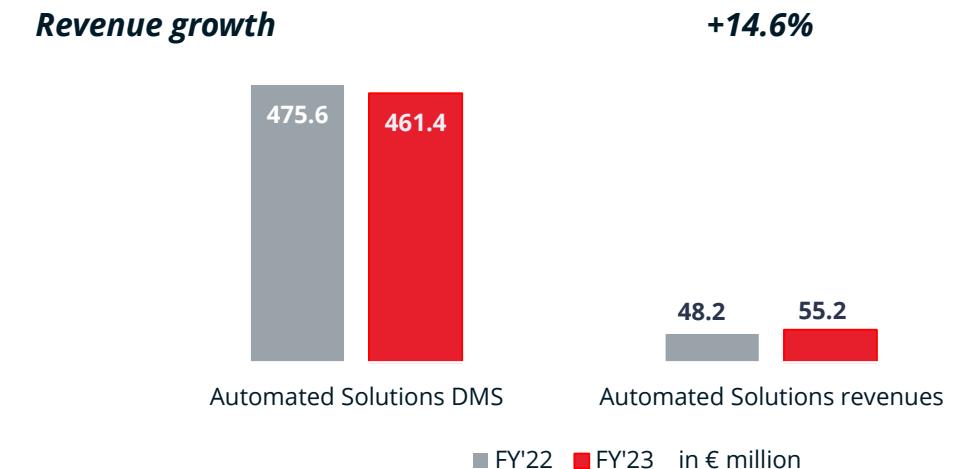
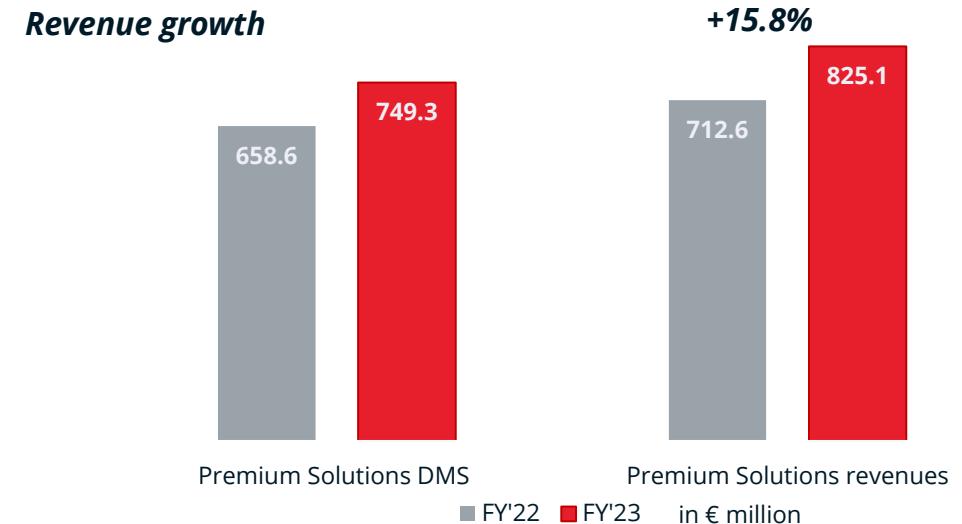
# A solid performance driven by organic growth in both segments with further market share gains in Premium Solutions

## Premium Solution: DMS<sup>(1)</sup> and revenue performance mostly reflecting solid organic growth notwithstanding embedded FX market

- Organic growth driven by resilient paid streaming, enhanced in Q4'23 by price increases at several large DSPs and additional market share gains as artists and labels continued to outperform their own market.
- Some improvement in ad-funded streaming at year end, but still depressed in emerging markets.
- Significant currency headwinds in digital monetization all year long but showing some improvement in Q4'23.

## Automated Solutions: single digit organic growth in line with Group's anticipations and strong contribution of Sentric

- Revenue growth, driven by organic growth (+9.9%) and Sentric integration (+7.6%) but affected by negative FX (-2.9%).
- Negative FX intensified in Q4'23 affecting digital monetization but TuneCore Accelerator marketing program launch in Q3'23 started contributing at the end of Q4'23.
- Strong non-digital sales due to Sentric integration and a catch up in TuneCore own publishing business



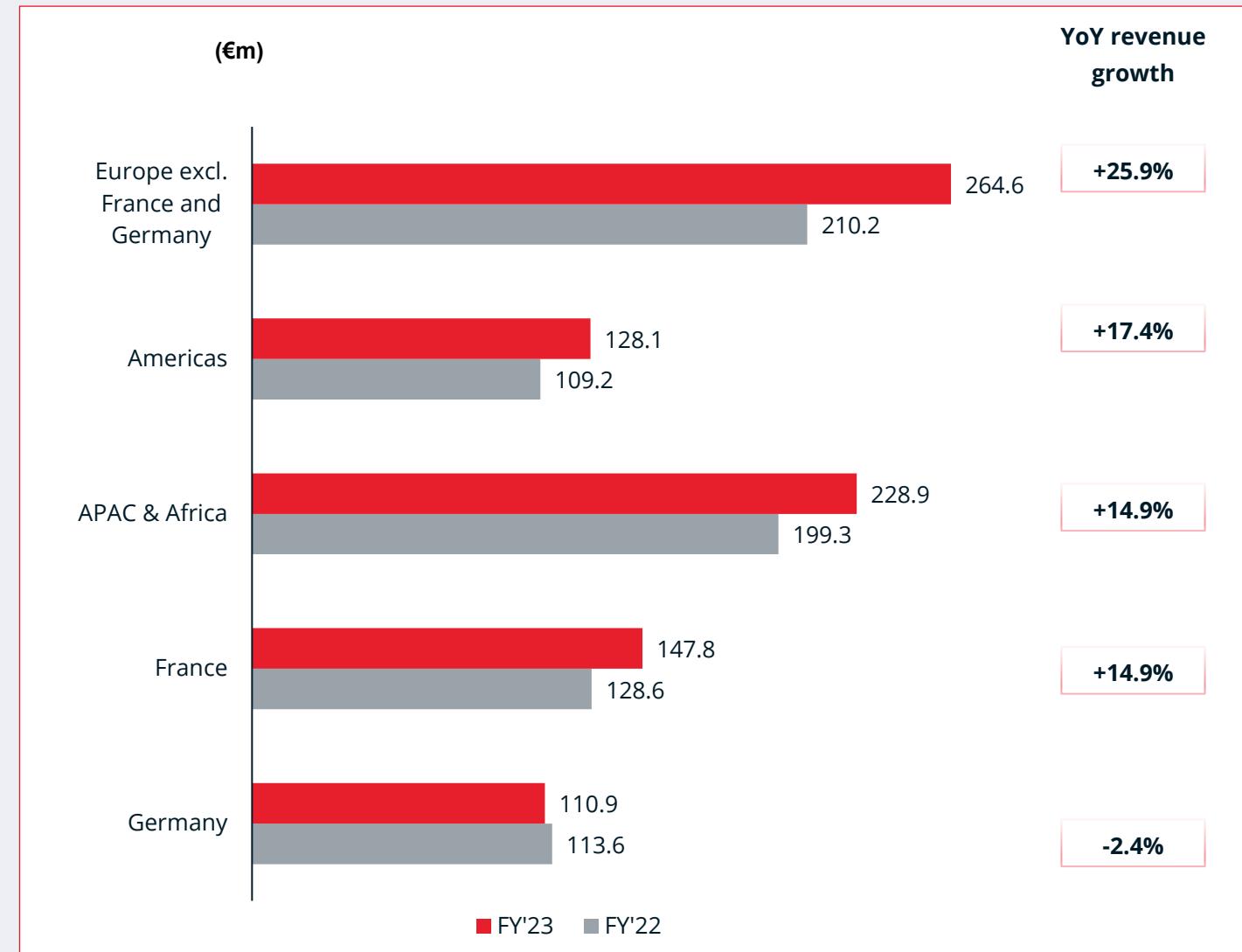
Notes:

1. Digital Music Sales is the revenue generated from digital store partners and social media platforms before royalty payment to artists and labels

# Strong growth in most regions notwithstanding a more challenged environment notably in emerging markets

## Key regional highlights

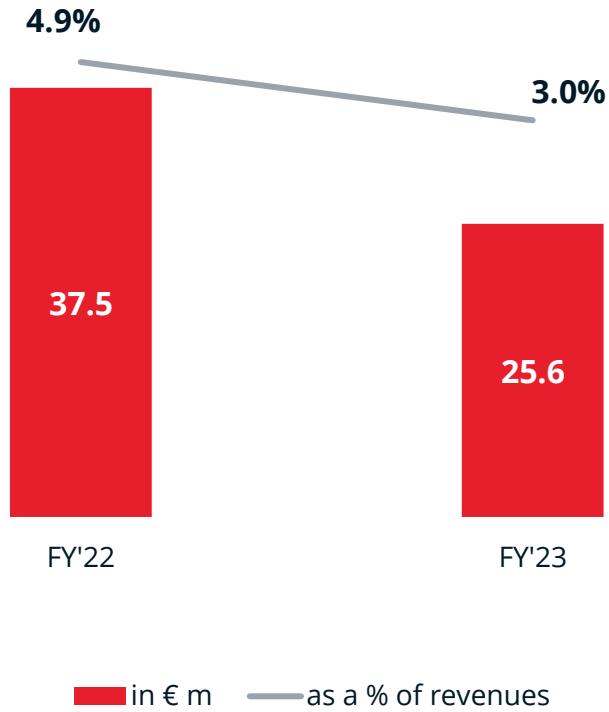
- **Europe (excl. France and Germany): up +25.9%** reflecting strong growth in Southern Europe, notably Spain and Eastern Europe. The performance was also uplifted by Sentric integration.
- **Americas: up +17.4%** reflecting strong level of activity in Brazil and Mexico and strong growth in Q4'23 of TuneCore after some improvement in the first 9 months.
- **APAC & Africa: up +14.9%** reflecting more challenging market conditions due to currency headwinds in digital collection by DSPs and depressed ad-funded streaming. Additional market share gains throughout the year, which was also marked by the launch of the full offer in Japan.
- **France: up +14.9%** reflecting very strong growth in Q4'23 thanks to a strong calendar of new releases and live activities, driving up the annual performance of the division.
- **Germany: down -2.4%** reflecting accelerated decline in physical sales & merch, partially offset by a return to healthy digital growth in Q4'23 after a temporary slowdown in Q3'23.



## Continued investment in Automated and Premium Solutions notwithstanding a lower intensity than in previous years aligned with market growth

- Lower growth investment<sup>(1)</sup> in Premium and Automated as % of revenue as the investment cycle was adapted to market growth
- Increased investment in absolute value in local sales in Premium Solutions in H2'23 as revenue ramp up became clearer.
- Continuous investment, notably in additional sales & marketing capabilities in Europe and Asia including the launch of the full offer and the opening of new offices in Japan.
- Further investment in Automated Solutions in new features and marketing programs, including the launch of TuneCore Accelerator in H2'23 (Q4'23 was the first full quarter after launch).

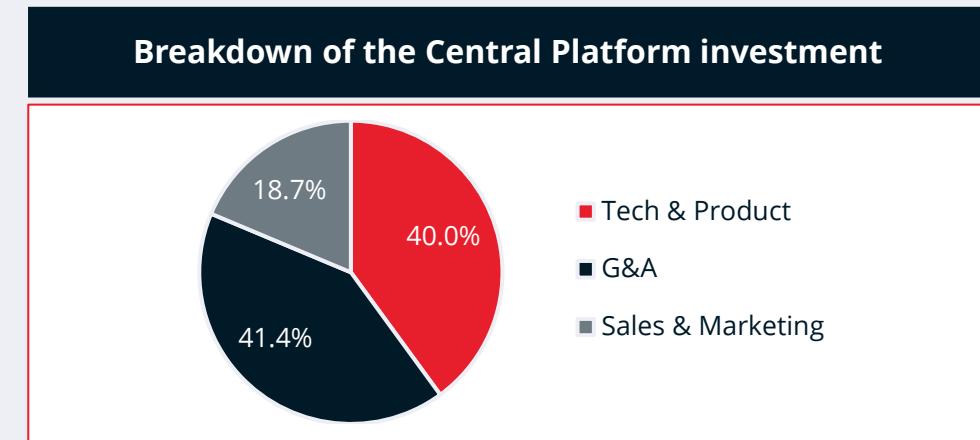
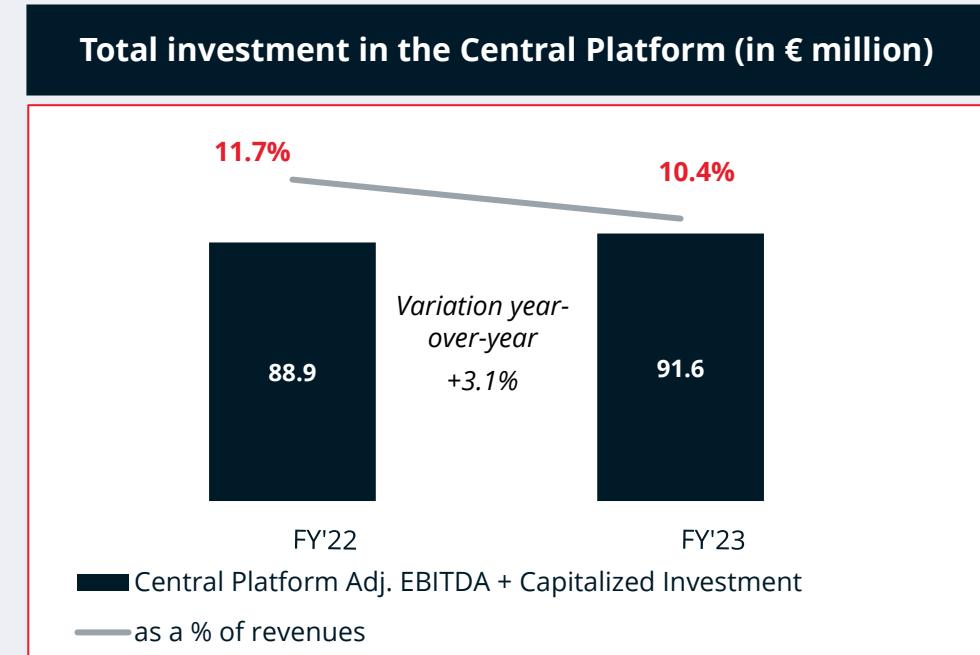
### Growth investment in Premium Solutions and Automated Solutions segments



**Notes:** (1) Growth investment in the business segments: human resource costs related to the new recruits in Premium Solutions and Automated Solutions, hired in the past 36 months, excluding salary increases. New teams should be break even between 18 to 24 months and take another 12 month to reach target EBITDA margin.

## Better amortization of Central Platform costs thanks to a focus on efficiency plans

- **Total investment in the Central Platform up +3% YoY**, mainly reflecting focus on optimization and efficiency and the postponement of secondary projects
  - P&L costs up +6.8% and further decreasing as % of total revenue at 8.9% vs. 9.6% in FY'22.
  - Capitalized development of €17.9 million or 2% of total revenue, roughly in line with previous years.
  - Total investment lowered to 10.4% of revenue in FY'23, supporting Believe profitability improvement.
- **Sales & Marketing driving the limited increase in total investment**
  - Additional investment in central sales enablement functions to pursue the ongoing phase of expansion across all artists & labels tiering.
  - Stable Tech & Product, reflecting efficiency plans and postponement of projects to 2024



# Strong increase in Group's Adjusted EBITDA margin – illustrating focus on efficiency and operating leverage

## Group Adjusted EBITDA more than doubled, a strong performance reflecting:

- Investments remained controlled in both segments but resumed at a higher pace in H2'23 as revenue ramp up was clearer – **delivering an increase of +40bps in the Adjusted EBITDA margin pre-Central Platform vs. FY'22.**
- A better cost amortization in the Central Platform in line with efficiency plans – **delivering solid operating leverage in FY'23.**
- **Group Adjusted EBITDA margin of 5.7% , or an increase of 110bps vs FY'22 – confirming that the mid-term objective is two years ahead IPO plan (Group Adjusted EBITDA margin: 5% to 7% by 2025).**

*Group's Adjusted EBITDA margin*

4.6%

5.7%

*Segment Adjusted EBITDA margin<sup>(1)</sup>*

14.2%

14.6%



■ Premium Solutions ■ Automated Solutions ■ Central Platform

**Notes:**

1. Segment Adjusted EBITDA is the combined Adjusted EBITDA of Automated Solutions and Premium Solutions before taking into account Central Platform costs, which are costs that cannot be allocated to the business segments.

# Free Cash Flow reflect leveraging strong commercial opportunities at high ROI

## Free cash flow almost at breakeven reflecting:

- **Further increase in artists & labels advances in H2'23, but higher level of recouptment and no demand to sign on longer terms as in H1'23:**
  - ✓ Advances up +€80.1 million at end Dec'23 vs. end December'22, reflecting strong commercial dynamism.
  - ✓ Current portion impacted by the numerous renewals in H1'23 on much longer terms (10-15 years deals).
- **Free cash flow is almost at breakeven thanks to the positive generation in H2'23**
- **Solid cash position at end of Dec'23 of €214.2 million** despite the resumption of the external growth strategy in FY'23.

	FY'22	FY'23
Operating cash flow before working capital variation	20.2	36.4
<b>Δ in net working capital</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>(23.7)</b>
<b>Operating cash flow</b> (or net cash from operating activities)	<b>73.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>
<b>Capex</b> <i>o/w capitalized costs</i>	<b>(25.5)</b> (19.8)	<b>(49.2)</b> (17.9)
Proceeds from sale of assets	-	1.2
less acquisition-related amounts	3.8	32.2
<b>Free cash-flow</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>(3.1)</b>

### Focus on customer advances – balance sheet

Assets (€m)	December'22	December'23
Artist and label advances	178.5	258.6
<i>o/w current advance (recoupable within 1y)</i>	51%	40%



Iñigo Quintero

Pop – Spain

Track: Si No Estás #1 Global Chart Spotify top 50

# FY 2024 outlook and mid-term objectives

## FY 2024 guidance: another step towards long-term Adjusted EBITDA margin of 15%

### 1. FY'24 Organic Growth expected at c. +18%, assuming a c. -2% embedded FX impact

- Resilient paid streaming to pursue its strong growth trajectory, uplifted by price increases at some large DSPs.
- Ad-funded streaming activities to recover in emerging markets in H2'24.
- Continuous market share gains notably in the countries where Believe is not yet in Top3 for local acts.
- **Adjusted Organic Growth:** c. +20%.

### 2. Adjusted EBITDA margin to pursue its increase in FY'24, expected around 6.5%

- **Scale effect and strong operational efficiency** contributing to increased EBITDA margin.
- **Significant commercial and consolidation opportunities** thanks to Believe's reinforced appeal to artists and business profile, which will weigh down on free cash flow.
- **Free cash flow expected slightly positive in FY'24.**

# On track to deliver on Mid-term objectives – further building scale in Premium and Automated Solutions to **reach 15% Adjusted EBITDA margin after hyper growth phase**

## A STEADY PACE OF INVESTMENT RESULTING IN STRONG REVENUE GROWTH OPERATING LEVERAGE

Accelerated investment in local teams across the countries addressed by Believe.

Continuing investment in Central Platform but scale up phase already completed: investment to progressively decrease as a % of revenue, peak reached end FY'19.

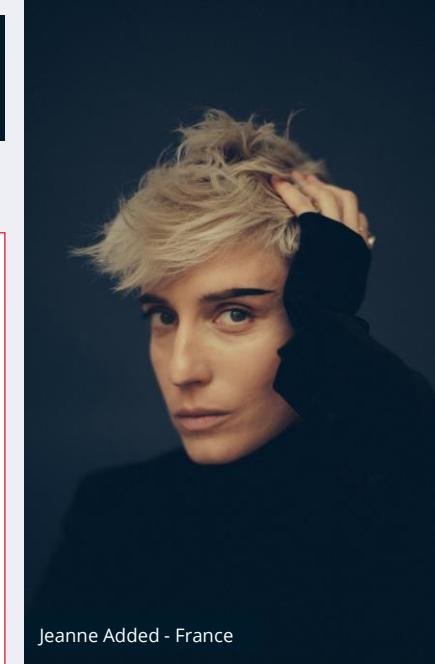
A targeted M&A strategy to accelerate revenue growth.



**Mid-term Organic CAGR  
2021-2025 objective:  
+22% - +25%**

**Adjusted EBITDA margin  
by 2025: 5% to 7%**

**Long term Adjusted  
EBITDA margin: 15%**



Jeanne Added - France



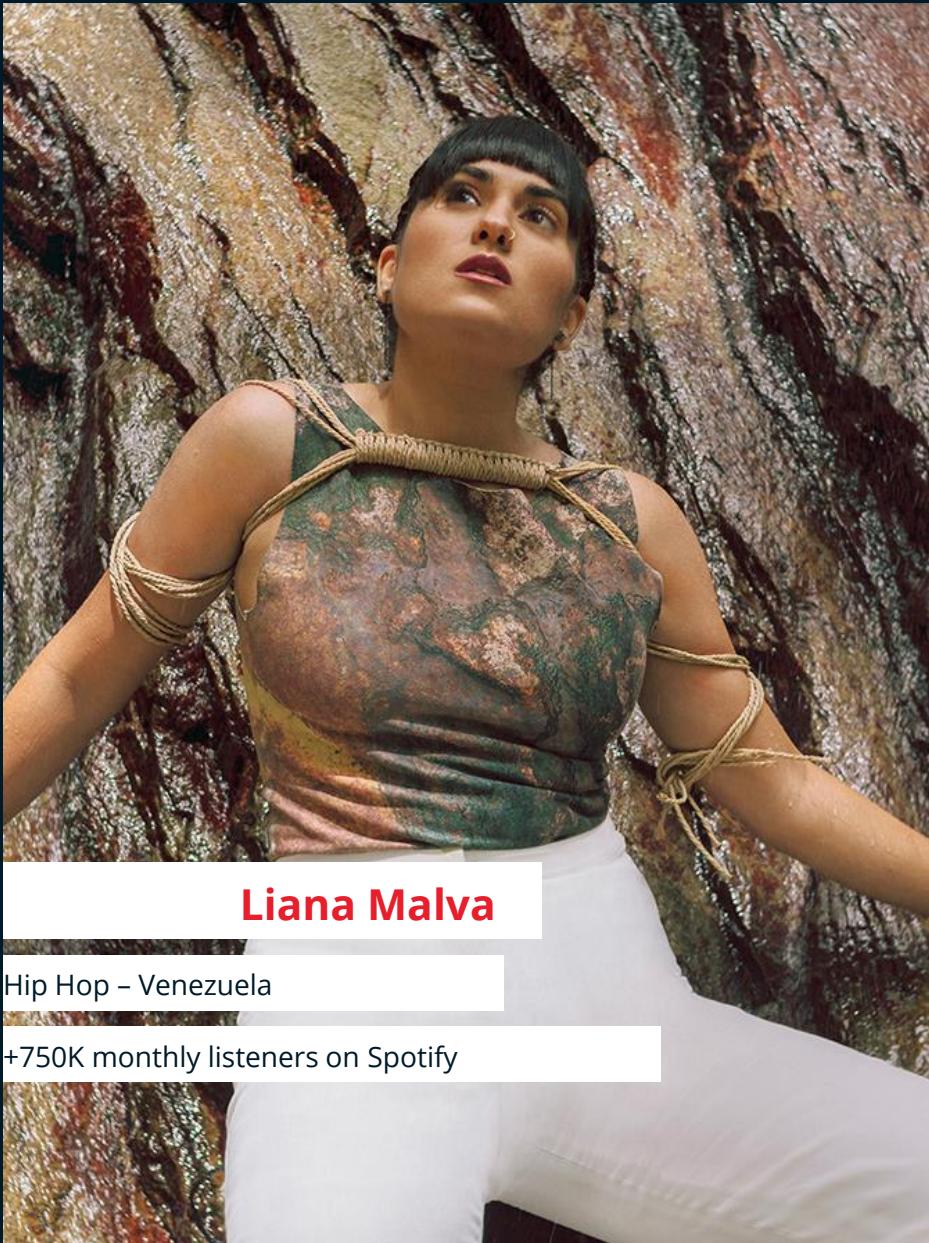
Qujia - China



Kweku Flick - Ghana



Adriana Rios - Mexico



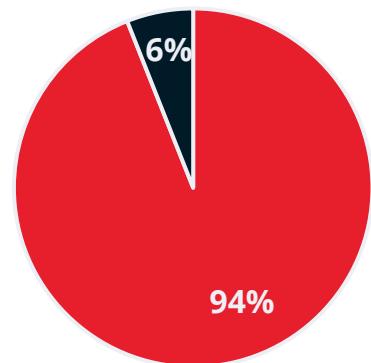
## Appendix

# Q4'23 and FY'23 revenue breakdown

**Q4'23 and FY'23 Revenue breakdown by segment**  
(in % of Group revenues)

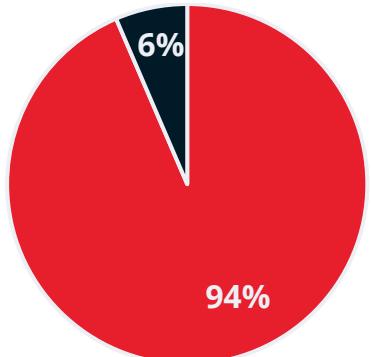
**Q4'23 Revenue breakdown by segment**

- Premium Solutions
- Automated Solutions



**FY'23 Revenue breakdown by segment**

- Premium Solutions
- Automated Solutions



**Q4'23 Revenue breakdown by geography**  
(in % of Group revenues)

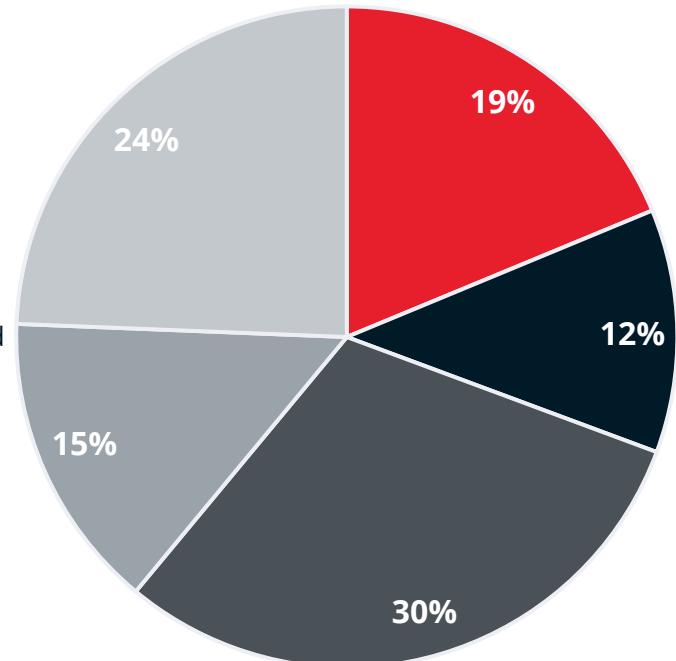
■ France

■ Germany

■ Europe excl. France and Germany

■ Americas

■ APAC-Africa



# P&L overview – key definitions

	Automated solutions	Premium solutions	Other (central platform costs)
<b>DMS</b> (Digital Music Sales) <sup>1</sup>	Royalties paid by the DSPs (Digital Service Providers) primarily based on subscriptions / advertising revenues allocated according to streaming volumes. DMS only apply to recording and are not an indicator used in publishing.	Not correlated to the bulk of revenues , but DMS = revenue generated by 'Social Platforms'	DMS = revenue for digitally distributed music
<b>Revenue</b>	c. 70% subscription fee based – includes self-served publishing services	DMS based for digital revenue Other revenues mainly include publishing, physical sales and synchronization rights	
 Cost of sales	Close to nil	Primarily royalties paid to artists	
 <b>Gross profit</b>	Close to 100%	According to royalty level negotiated in the contract	
 Opex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes marketing and promotion costs for artist services and distribution costs for physical channels</li> <li>HR costs for local sales and services</li> <li>Other opex</li> </ul>		Primarily relates to investments in Believe's central platform, focusing on developing operating tools (IT, operations, product) as well as structuring, driving and supporting commercial (Sales, Marketing) and corporate functions (Finance, HR)
 <b>EBITDA</b>	Excludes exceptional items and share-based employee compensation		

Note

1. Non GAAP definition

Source: Company Information