



# Bekaert H1 2024 Results

26 July 2024

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# Agenda

**1 Introduction and highlights**

Yves Kerstens, CEO

**2 Financial review**

Taufiq Bussaid, CFO

**3 Strategic and operational review**

Yves Kerstens, CEO

**4 Outlook**

Yves Kerstens, CEO

**5 Q&A**



**Yves Kerstens,**  
CEO



**Taufiq Bussaid,**  
CFO

# Introduction and highlights

## Key developments – H1 2024<sup>1</sup>

Another period of robust results delivery

### Ongoing strategic execution

- Positive M&A momentum – acquired BEXCO
- Efficiency gains & structural cost improvements across the business

### Improving business mix

- Three BUs at >10% EBITu<sup>2</sup> margin level
- SWS improved margins by +380bps to 11.4% in H1

### Some delays in growth businesses

- +4% volume growth in Sustainable Construction with notable Dramix® wins in landmark projects and increasing adoption in newer markets
- Some contract delays in Hydrogen (12-18 months), but outlook remains robust
- Operational performance challenges at Steel Ropes – but turnaround plan deployed

### Resilient financial delivery despite challenges

- Profitability improvements (9.9% EBITu margin, +20bps) despite lower volumes and sales
- Underlying EPS stable at €3.04 (vs €3.07 in H1 2023)
- Stable Free Cash Flow<sup>3</sup> (€43m) and low leverage at 0.7x<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>All comparisons are relative to H1 2023

<sup>2</sup>EBITu is underlying EBIT as defined in the Alternative Performance Measures (EBIT before one-off items)

<sup>3</sup>Free Cash Flow (FCF) is defined in the Alternative Performance Measures (Cash flows from operating activities – capex – net interest + dividends received)

<sup>4</sup>Leverage = net debt/EBITDAu



One of the top 500 most sustainable companies in the world



## H1 2024 financial highlights

Robust results delivery despite challenges

### Sales

**€2.1bn**

**-11%<sup>1</sup>**

### EBITu<sup>2</sup>

**€204m**

**-9%<sup>1</sup>**

### EBITu margin improvement

**9.9%**

**+20bps<sup>1</sup>**

### Underlying EPS

**€3.04**

**-1%<sup>1</sup>**

### Net debt

**€399m**

**-25%<sup>1</sup>**

### Net debt / EBITDAu

**0.7x**

**-0.2x<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> All comparisons are relative to H1 2023

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## Strategic developments in H1 2024

### Recycled-steel tires



**GOODYEAR**

**Bekaert**

Goodyear unveiled a tire comprised of 90% sustainable materials using Bekaert recycled steel tire cord

### Critical approval received



TUNNELLING ASSOCIATION  
OF INDIA

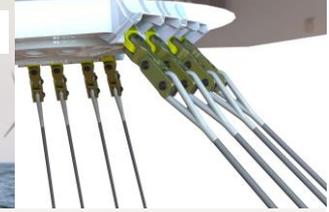


**DELHI METRO**

Bekaert obtained SFRC<sup>1</sup> guidelines for Segmental Lining in Delhi (India), a key milestone for customer adoption

### Flintstone fully integrated

**FLINTSTONE**



Flintstone's connector and tensioner products, have been valuable additions to Bekaert's mooring solutions portfolio

### BEXCO acquisition completed



**BEXCO**

**BRIDON · BEKAERT**  
THE ROPES GROUP

BEXCO strengthens Bekaert's offering in synthetic offshore lifting and mooring solutions

### Telecommunications solutions



Our innovative messenger and guy strand product met the Buy America guidelines set by the NTIA<sup>2</sup>

### Steel circularity standards set



Bekaert Recycled Content Standard sets the benchmark within the industry for transparency in steel circularity

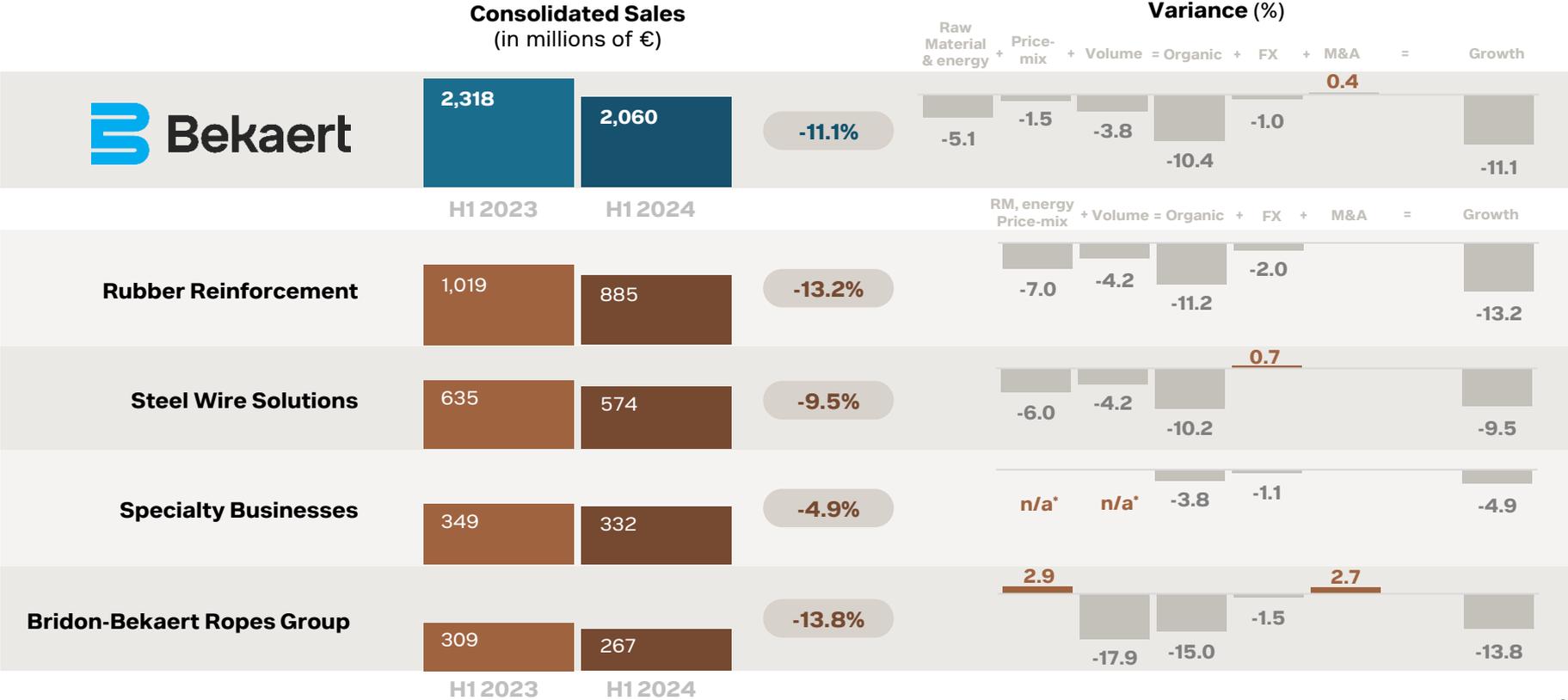
<sup>1</sup> SFRC: steel fiber reinforced concrete

<sup>2</sup> NTIA: National Telecommunications and Information Administration

# Financial review

# Consolidated sales

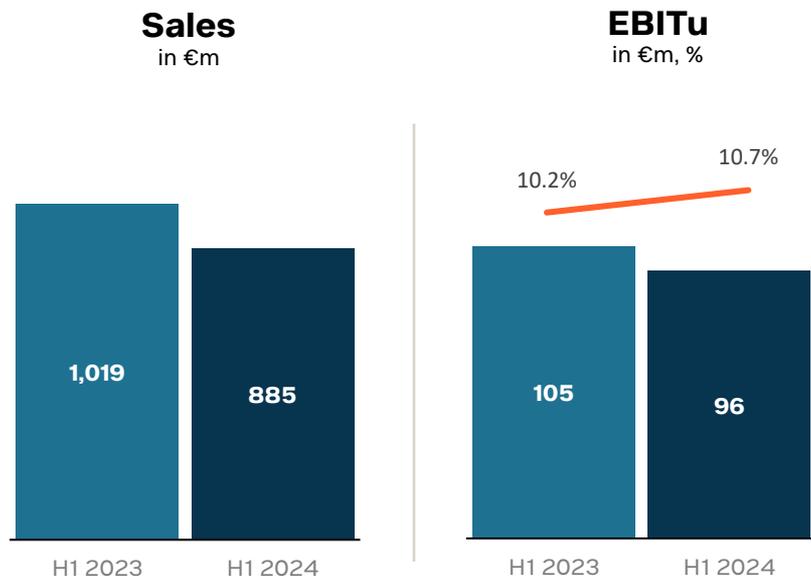
Robust results delivery despite challenges



\* n/a: In this BU, there is a broad range of non-comparable units including KG, pieces, m².

## Rubber Reinforcement

Improved operational performance and profitability on lower volumes in a challenging environment



## H1 2024 Review

### -4% volumes vs H1 2023

- Lower sales from reversal of raw material cost inflation
- Price pressure in China in more commoditized products

### +2% volume growth vs H2 2023

- Strong volume growth vs H2 2023 in EMEA (+13%) & North America (+8%)

### EBITu margin 10.7%, +50bps

- Strong focus on cost efficiency and mix improvements

### Strong cash generation

- China plants running at high-capacity utilization

### 50% sales from premium products

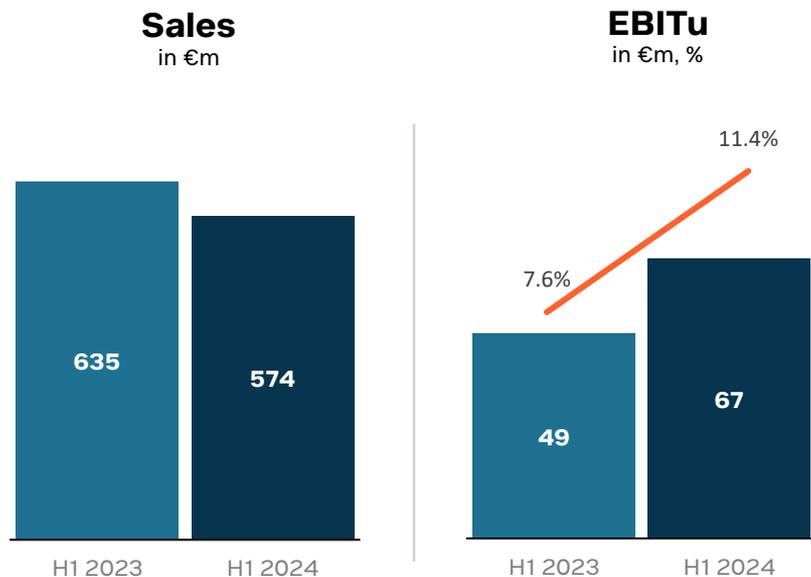
- Strong focus on stronger tensile cords and increasing recycled content of our products

### Ongoing ramp-up in Vietnam & India

- Sales in Vietnam continue to ramp-up including homologation of key accounts
- Expanding production capacity in India

## Steel Wire Solutions

Strong operational and business mix improvements from continued strategic transformation



## H1 2024 Review

### -4% volumes vs H1 2023

- Lower sales from reversal of raw material cost inflation

### +4% volume growth vs H2 2023

- Strong volume growth vs H2 2023 in EMEA (+12%) & North America (+20%)

### c28% sales from Energy & Utilities

- Further mix improvements towards higher margin applications

### EBITu margin 11.4%, +380bps

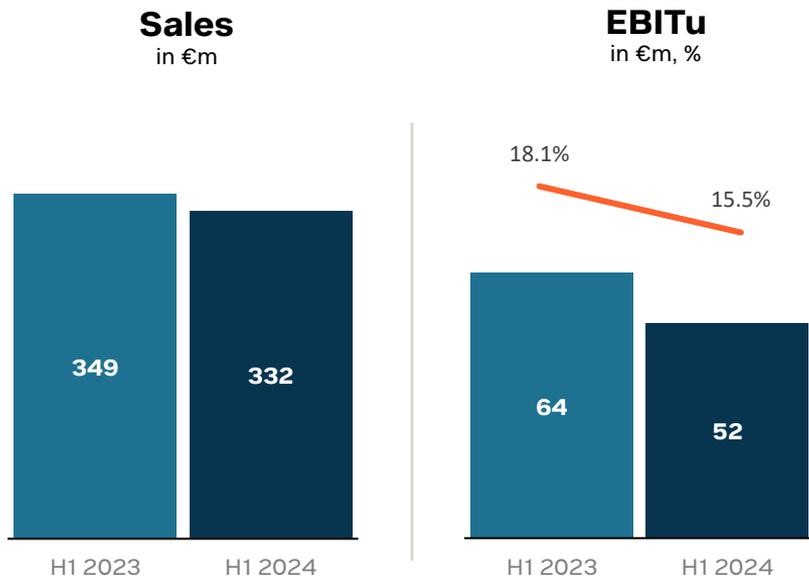
- Highly selective across service portfolio, improving mix
- Structural cost and operational improvements resulting in strong profitability
- Lower margin in H2 2024 given seasonality

### Strong cash generation

- Excellent working capital management and cash flow generation

## Specialty Businesses

Strong volume growth in Sustainable Construction, Hydrogen ramp-up continues despite sector delays



## H1 2024 Review

### Sustainable Construction

#### +4% volume growth vs H1 2023

- Improved market penetration
- Strong order book

#### c50% volumes from 4D/5D Dramix®

- Additional tunnelling projects using higher tensile fibers
- Notable success in industrial flooring projects

#### Lower margin vs H1 2023

- Lower pricing vs exceptional period in H1 2023
- Good market adoption rates in key economies (India and Saudi Arabia)

### Hydrogen electrolysis

#### Production ramp-up supported by LTSA's

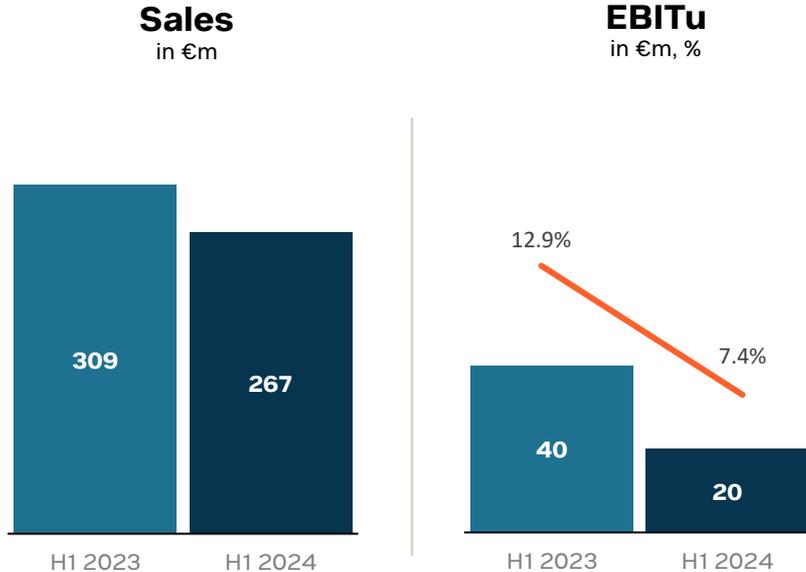
- Modular production ramp-up continues
- Long-term industry outlook remains strong, despite some delays and contract rephasing

### Other

- Ultra Fine Wires strong Q1 followed by material slowdown due to overstocking and faster shift away from steel-based products in the solar market
- Combustion Technologies business remains challenged
- +6% volume growth in Hose and Conveyor Belt sub-segment

## Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group

Operational issues and project delays in Steel Ropes businesses, recovery expected during H2 2024



## H1 2024 Review

### Issues fully identified, recovery expected during H2 2024

- Steel Ropes businesses in US & UK impacted by manufacturing issues and re-phasing of projects
- Faced some staffing shortages and production issues with transferred machines
- Production issues on track to be solved in Q3
- Sales volumes back at planned run rate by end of Q4

### Strong progress in offshore mooring

- Continue to make significant advancements in floating offshore mooring solutions as part of several new projects

### A-Cords

- Lower timing-belt sales compensated by higher sales in hoisting business

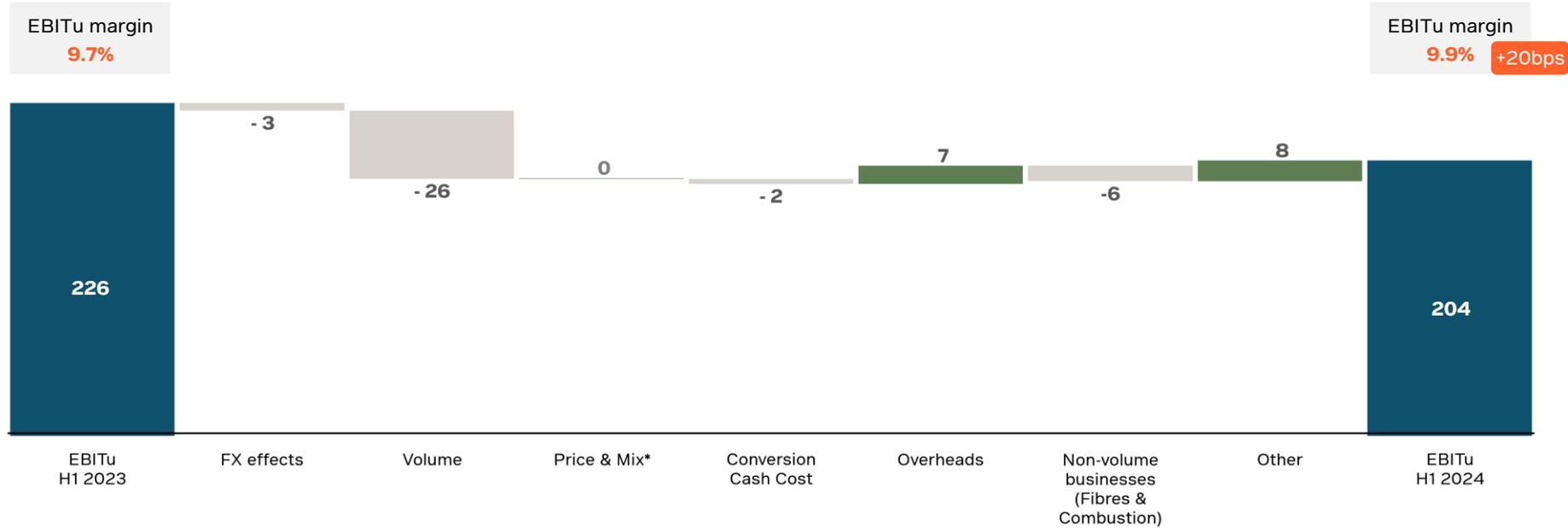
### Acquisitions performing well

- Flintstone fully integrated
- BEXCO integration on track
- Industrial benefits and increased commercial opportunities

## EBITu bridge

Improved margins from plant utilization, cost efficiencies and mix offsetting lower volumes and operational challenges in Steel Ropes

in millions of €



\*Net of FIFO inventory valuation of +€37m

## Consolidated income statement – key figures

In €m	H1 2023 Reported	H1 2024 Reported
<b>EBIT</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>192</b>
Interest income / expense	-14	-9
Other financial income and expenses	-21	-8
<b>Result before taxes</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>174</b>
Income taxes	-45	-44
<i>Effective tax rate</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>25%</i>
<b>Result after taxes (consolidated companies)</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>130</b>
Share in the results of joint ventures and associates	23	20
<b>Result for the period from continued operations</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Result attributable to equity holders of Bekaert from continued operations</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Basic EPS from continued operations (€ per share)</b>	<b>2.98</b>	<b>2.80</b>
<i>Weighted average number of shares (basic, in millions of shares)</i>	<i>54.1</i>	<i>52.4</i>

### One-off items



### EBITu<sup>1</sup>



### Underlying Basic EPS from continued operations

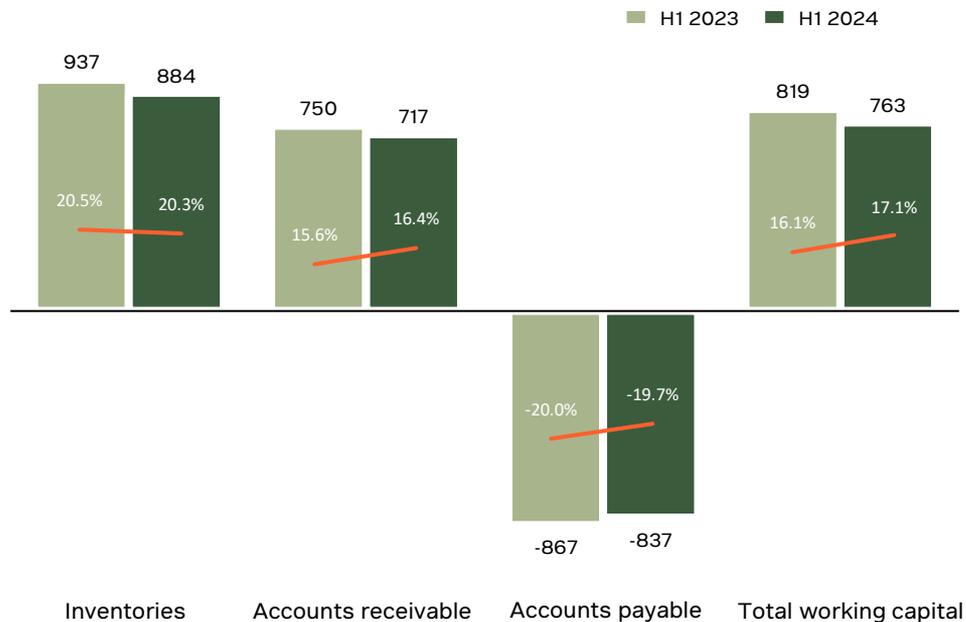


<sup>1</sup> EBITu is underlying EBIT as defined in the Alternative Performance Measures (EBIT before one-off items)

## Working capital management

### Continued focus on working capital

In millions of €, average as % of sales

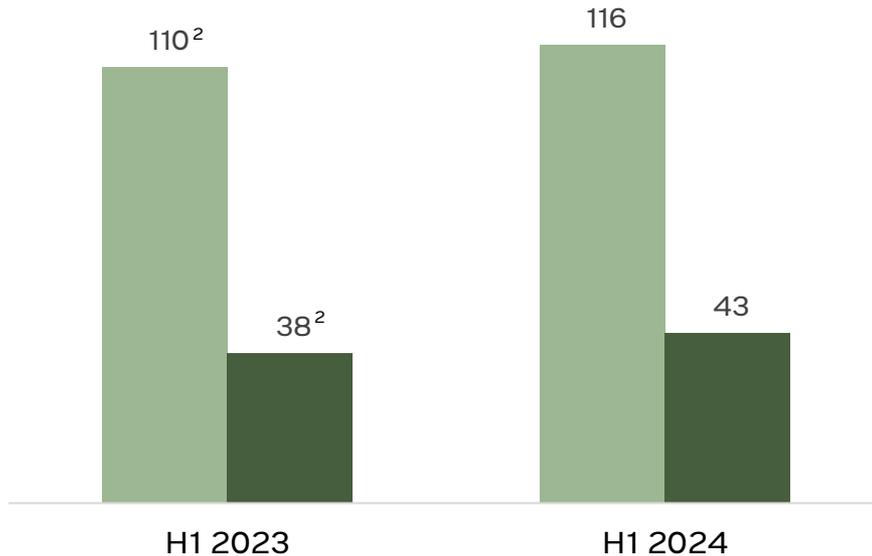


- Total working capital down €56m vs H1 2023
- Inventories and accounts receivables decreased, partly offset by a decrease in accounts payable
- Average working capital on sales increased to 17.1% as a result of:
  - H1 2023 inflated sales (higher input costs)

## Stable cash flow generation

Allowing the group to invest in growth and to enhance shareholder returns

- Cash Flows from Operating Activities (€m)
- Free Cash Flow<sup>1</sup> (€m)



<sup>1</sup> Free Cash Flow (FCF) = Cash flows from operating activities - capex - net interest + dividends received

<sup>2</sup> Cash Flows from Operating Activities amounted to €162 million in H1 2023 including the contribution from businesses in Latin America now disposed of (FCF amounted to €80 million). Excluding these cash flows, the like for like figures for H1 2023 were €110 million and €38 million respectively.

### Stable cash flows from operating activities

- €116m in H1 2024
- Despite lower sales and operational challenges in Steel Ropes businesses in US & UK

### FCF<sup>1</sup> of €43m in H1 2024

- Despite increased investments to support future growth in H1 2024

### Capex spend in FY 2024 will be lower than anticipated (c€200m)

- Tactical postponements given delays in some growth businesses

### Strong FCF delivery expected for FY 2024

# Strategic review

# Strategic overview



## Strategic objectives

1

Move toward market driven, focused & self-sufficient BUs

2

Transform business portfolio to capture growth opportunities

3

Drive innovation across business & build up global brands

4

Strengthen Bekaert fundamentals - smart, sustainable & agile



## Structure

1

Synergetic center and end-market oriented BUs

2

Clear performance orientation and accountabilities

3

People & talent development across businesses

4

Reinforce capabilities for acquisitions

## H1 2024 scorecard



### Perform



- Margin up +20bps despite lower sales
- Three BUs at >10% margin level
- Stable cash generation



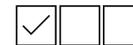
### Transform



- BEXCO acquisition
- Flintstone integration
- Portfolio & footprint rationalization
- M&A pipeline



### Grow



- Dramix® growth
- Hydrogen strong growth, despite industry delays
- Steel ropes operational challenges
- RR India capacity expansion

## Prioritizing large and growing end-markets



€7bn<sup>1</sup>

### Tire Reinforcement

Growth driven by population and economic activity, accelerated by changing requirements from **electrification and circularity**



€7bn<sup>1</sup>

### Energy Transition

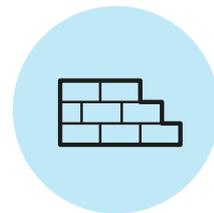
Significant growth from trends of decarbonization, electrification, and needs for **renewable energy**



€5bn<sup>1</sup>

### Advanced Lifting and Mooring

Strong growth outlook in targeted end markets supported by **decarbonization and urbanization**

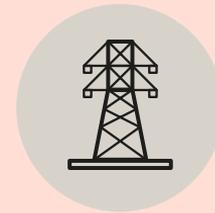


€2bn<sup>1</sup>

### Sustainable Construction

Fast growing construction market benefitting from **sustainability**, government infrastructure spending and **innovation**

Further clarity on SWS's priority end-markets



€1bn<sup>1</sup>

### Transmission & Performance Wires

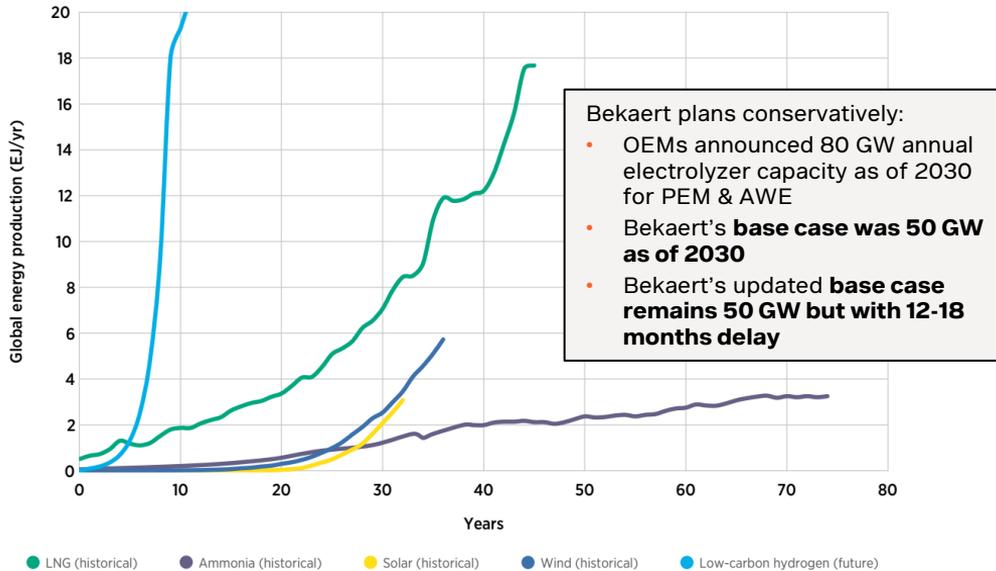
Strong growth in transmission network driven by **renewable capacities** to be grid connected and **electricity & data consumption growth**

<sup>1</sup> Estimated addressable market by 2028

## Energy Transition – despite industry slowdown significant opportunity remains

Bekaert's modular capacity build-up and customer backing key to navigating industry dynamics

### Historical growth for various technologies compared with low-carbon hydrogen (i.e. green & blue) growth required for a 1.5°C scenario<sup>1</sup>



Note: Year 0 is 1975 for LNG, 1946 for ammonia, 1988 for wind and solar, 2021 for hydrogen. LNG = liquefied natural gas. Low-carbon hydrogen uptake for a 1.5°C scenario.

<sup>1</sup>Source: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) – Global Hydrogen Trade to Meet the 1.5°C Climate Goal

## >12GW green H<sub>2</sub> projects reached Final Investment Decision

### H<sub>2</sub> green steel



Andalusian green hydrogen valley

### ENOWA. NEOM



Normand'Hy



- **Electrolysis** industry remains critical for transition to **green hydrogen** (99% of H<sub>2</sub> production today created from fossil fuels)
- Market faced some delays, but remains **sizeable** and well **supported by funding**
- Bekaert's **modular capacity expansion** plan provides **flexibility** as industry develops
- Bekaert has **strong visibility** thanks to **Long-Term Service Agreements**
- Some supply chain issues and **projects moving more slowly post Final Investment Decision**





# Advanced Lifting & Mooring – Acquisition of BEXCO strengthens our position

High quality business and template for future acquisitions

## BEXCO at a glance

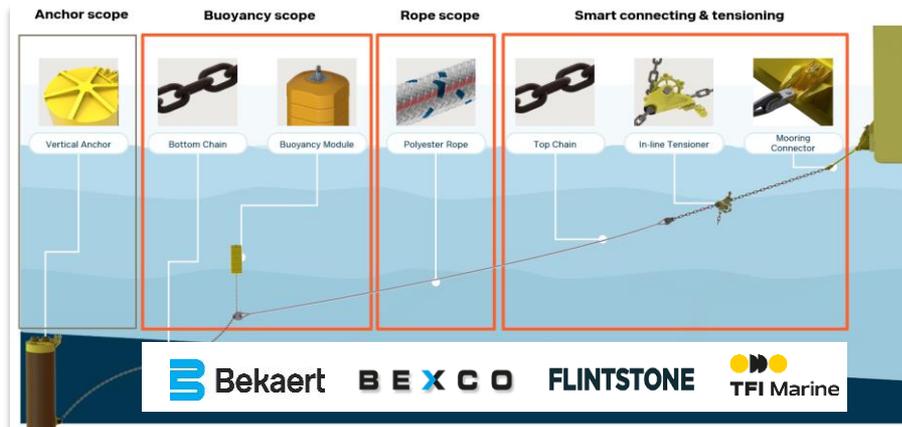
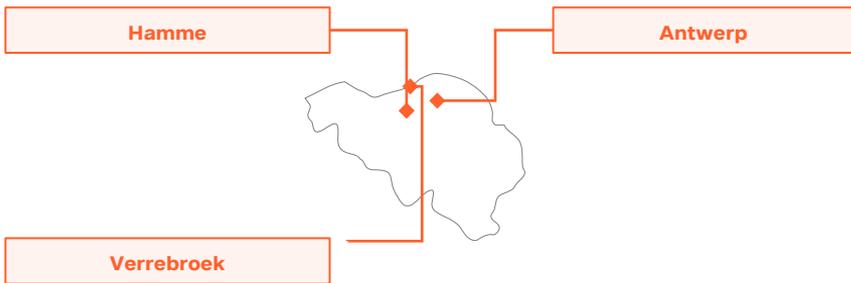
- Leading global player with >50 years experience
- Offering synthetic ropes for offshore energy production, both conventional and renewable
- Headquartered in Hamme, Belgium
- c130 employees
- c€40m sales in FY 2023 at similar operating profit margin to Bekaert group's margin

- Acquired BEXCO for **cash consideration of c€40m**
- Combination of Bekaert and BEXCO creates a **synthetic ropes technology leader** to support the offshore energy industry's future growth
- **Acquisition fully in line with our growth plans** and ambition to support the transition to alternative energy sources
- Cost, procurement and sales synergies expected

## Manufacturing footprint

- Serving global clients from 3 sites in Belgium

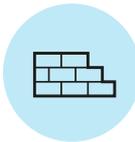
# BEXCO



# Operational review

# SpB Sustainable Construction - continued adoption of Dramix®

+4% volume growth despite sluggish overall construction market



## Key developments

### New applications



#### Innovative applications in mature markets

- High tensile fibers
- Residential rafts in Germany (Stuttgart & Düsseldorf)
- Continued growth with Elevated slabs (SigmaSlab®)

### New geographies



#### Increasing adoption in newer markets

- Obtained SFRC guidelines for Segmental Lining in Delhi (India)
- Jointless floor at logistics park in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- Jointless industrial floor in Chengdu, China

### Landmark projects



- Metro Toulouse, France
- Gotthard Tunnel in Switzerland
- Western Harbour Tunnel Sydney, Australia
- 100,000m<sup>2</sup> seamless port pavement in Brisbane, Australia

## Engineering capabilities critical

# FALCONIX

Engineering design & consulting services key **enabler to grow steel fiber adoption**

Plays a crucial role in **developing national guidelines for steel fiber usage**

Key service to **drive penetration of advanced flooring solutions (e.g. rafts)**

**Offering proprietary design tools & software**

Looking to expand Falconix® footprint to **new geographies** (North America & Middle East)

## BBRG operational update

Issues only in Steel Ropes businesses in US & UK  
A-Cords and Synthetics unaffected

### **Challenges related to the closure of Pointe-Claire plant (Canada) and Gelsenkirchen (Germany) and transfer of operations respectively to US and UK steel rope plants**

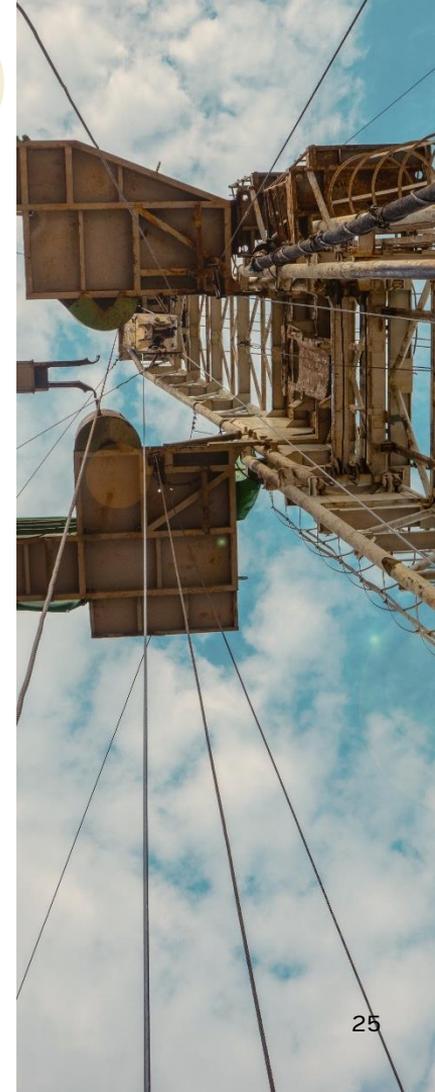
- Delays from transferred equipment running efficiently
- Process reliability issues, leading to higher scrap rates and delayed orders
- Issues finding and retaining staff to operate plant in new locations

### **Issues fully identified and turnaround plan deployed**

- Production issues on track to be solved in H2
- Sales volumes back at planned run rate by year-end
- No other plants or regions affected

### **Lost sales and profitability impact in 2024**

- Further lost sales in H2 2024 expected
- Improving profitability during H2
- No impact on pricing expected
- No impact expected in overall market shares
- Order book remains strong



# Summary and outlook

## H1 2024 summary<sup>1</sup>

Another period of robust results delivery

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One of the top 500 most sustainable companies in the world



# Outlook

- H1 2024 results are another milestone in the ongoing transformation of the group
- Resilient financial performance in H1 and robust financial position gives us confidence in our ability to further deliver on our strategic and financial priorities
- However, there have been delays to some growth businesses and in this environment, management now expects a modest decline in sales in FY 2024 against FY 2023
- However, it does anticipate in FY 2024:
  - Increasing EBITu margins
  - EBITu in-line with current expectations
  - Further strong free cash flow generation
- Looking beyond 2024, management remains confident in its existing longer term targets.



# Q&A

# Appendix

# Driving growth and expansion of our Sustainable Solutions portfolio



<sup>1</sup> EU Taxonomy-aligned turnover

# Setting up Market Driven Verticals to unleash our full potential

## Our ambition remains the same

Be the leading partner for shaping the way we live and move – safe, smart, sustainable

### 1 Shift portfolio towards growth & high value markets

- ✓ Energy Transition: **Currento®**, **Ampect™**
- ✓ Sustainable Construction: **Dramix®**
- ✓ Transmission: Power & Data, **Armofor®**
- ✓ Lifting & Mooring: Synthetic Rope, **BEXCO**

### 2 Extract the full potential of our current portfolio

- ✓ Tire Reinforcement
- ✓ Performance Wires
- ✓ Lifting & Mooring: Steel Rope, **Bridon®**



#### OUR CAPABILITIES

- Our brands: **Currento®**, **Dramix®**, **Bridon®** ...
- Technology and innovation
- Reputation, 140+ years
- Market access
- Balanced and diverse portfolio
- Strong balance sheet



#### OUR PEOPLE

- Performance oriented inclusive culture & supporting reward system
- People & talent development across businesses, exploiting synergies
- Clear accountability at each level
- Capability upgrade to shift from product push to market pull



#### OUR FOCUS

- Digitally forward, sustainability-focused & diverse organization
- Addressing mega trends
- M&As: market access & ability to win
- Disproportional resource on growth
- Exit commodity, low value businesses
- Target value-cost leadership at core



#### OUR STRUCTURE

- Target Operating Model (TOM): lean, efficient, agile
- A decentralized organization, supported by a lean corporate & shared service centers
- Aligned leadership toward high-performance organization
- Market oriented set-up targeting #1-2 positions in each market

# Alternative Performance Measures

## Definitions

Metric	Definition
<b>Capital employed (CE)</b>	Working capital + net intangible assets + net goodwill + net property, plant and equipment + net RoU Property, plant and equipment. The weighted average CE is weighted by the number of periods that an entity has contributed to the consolidated result.
<b>Capital ratio (financial autonomy)</b>	Equity relative to total assets.
<b>Current ratio</b>	Current assets to Current liabilities.
<b>Combined figures</b>	Sum of consolidated companies + 100% of joint ventures and associates after elimination of intercompany transactions (if any). Examples: sales, capital expenditure, number of employees.
<b>EBIT</b>	Operating result (earnings before interest and taxation).
<b>EBIT - underlying (EBITu)</b>	EBIT before operating income and expenses that are related to restructuring programs, impairment losses, business combinations, business disposals, environmental provisions or other events and transactions that have a material one-off effect that is not inherent to the business.
<b>EBITDA</b>	Operating result (EBIT) + depreciation, amortization and impairment of assets + negative goodwill.
<b>EBITDA - underlying (EBITDAu)</b>	EBITDA before operating income and expenses that are related to restructuring programs, impairment losses, business combinations, business disposals, environmental provisions or other events and transactions that have a material one-off effect that is not inherent to the business.
<b>EBIT interest coverage</b>	Operating result (EBIT) divided by net interest expense.
<b>Free Cash Flow (FCF)</b>	Cash flows from Operating activities - capex + dividends received - net interest paid.
<b>Gearing</b>	Net debt relative to equity.
<b>Margin on sales</b>	EBIT, EBIT-underlying, EBITDA and EBITDA-underlying on sales.
<b>Net capitalization</b>	Net debt + equity.
<b>Net debt</b>	Interest-bearing debt net of current loans, non-current financial receivables and cash guarantees, short-term deposits, cash and cash equivalents.
<b>Net debt on EBITDA</b>	Net debt divided by EBITDA.
<b>Operating free cash flow</b>	Cash flows from Operating activities - capex (net of disposals of fixed assets).
<b>Return on capital employed (ROCE)</b>	Operating result (EBIT) relative to the weighted average capital employed.
<b>Return on equity (ROE)</b>	Result for the period relative to average equity.
<b>WACC</b>	Cost of debt and cost of equity weighted with a target gearing of 50% (net debt/equity structure) after tax.
<b>Operating Working Capital</b>	Inventories + trade receivables + bills of exchange received + advanced paid - trade payables - advances received - remuneration and social security payables - employment-related taxes.
<b>Internal Bekaert Management Reporting</b>	Focusing on the operational performance of the industrial companies of the Group, leaving out financial companies and other non-industrial companies, in a flash approach and as such not including all consolidation entries reflected in the full hard-close consolidation on which the annual report is based.

