Q4 REPORT



**BUE4B** 

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Erik Lundén President & CEO

**Pär Ihrskog** CFO

**BUE4B** 





## Acquisition of VITAL – a leading Italian C-parts distributor

- Net sales of EUR 48 million in 2023
- Operating profit margin above Bufab's 2026 profitability target
- A platform acquisition. Deepen our presence in southern Europe and increase our service level to current and new customers
- Former owners will stay in management positions







President & CEO



### Full year 2024 – another good year for Bufab

- Stable result, despite weaker demand Demonstrating our resilience even in a more challenging market
  - Total growth was -7.4% and the organic growth was -5.4%
  - Record-strong gross margin, reaching 29.7%
  - Stable adjusted operating margin at 11.9% and cash flow
  - Proposed dividend of SEK 5.25 (5.00) per share

#### Successful implementation of our strategy

- Strengthened value proposition through expanded service and product portfolio Drives organic growth and GP imp.
- Clear focus on Profitable Growth Gradually improve our customer and product mix
- Next step on our sustainability journey From internal focus to customer value creation
- Improved operating model & tailormade plans for each sister Decentralization and strong performance management
- Acquisition of VITAL & divestment of Bufab Lann and Hallborn Metall Focus on Trading & Niche





### Fourth quarter highlights

- Continued cautious market demand and large variation across industries
- Organic growth of -1.5%, an improvement over Q3 (-2,6)
- Gross margin improvement, reaching 29.7% (29.3)
- Higher operating expenses, driven by one-offs and currency effects. Underlying cost base under control
- Adjusted operating margin at 10.8% (11.8)

#### DISCOVERING THE NEXT SOLUTION



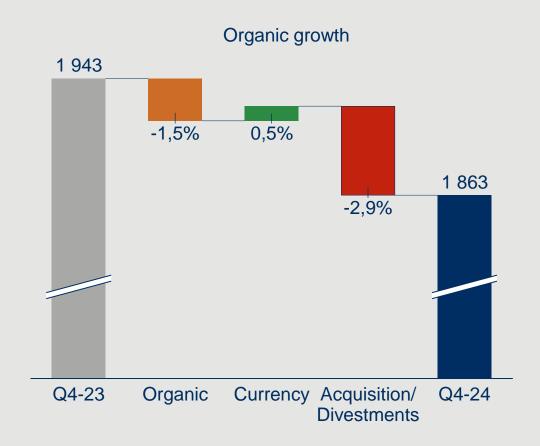






# Continued negative organic growth, however, improvement to previous quarter

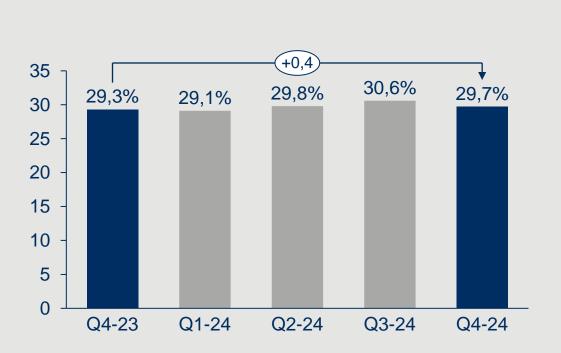






# Improved gross margin by 0.4 pp driven by our trading business



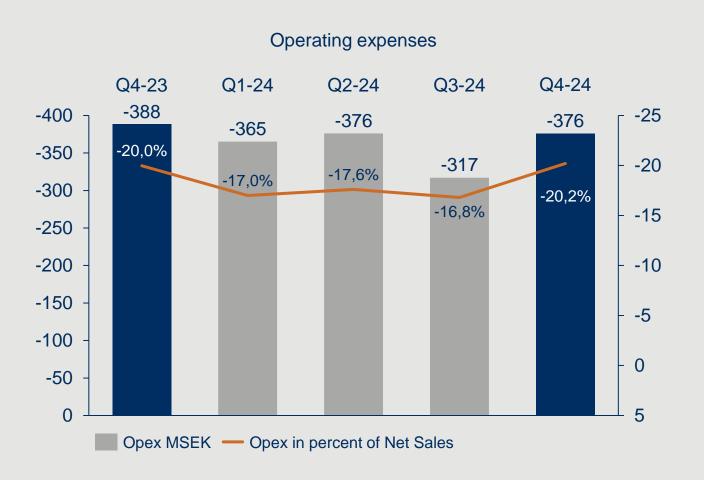


#### EBITA adjusted and EBITA margin adjusted





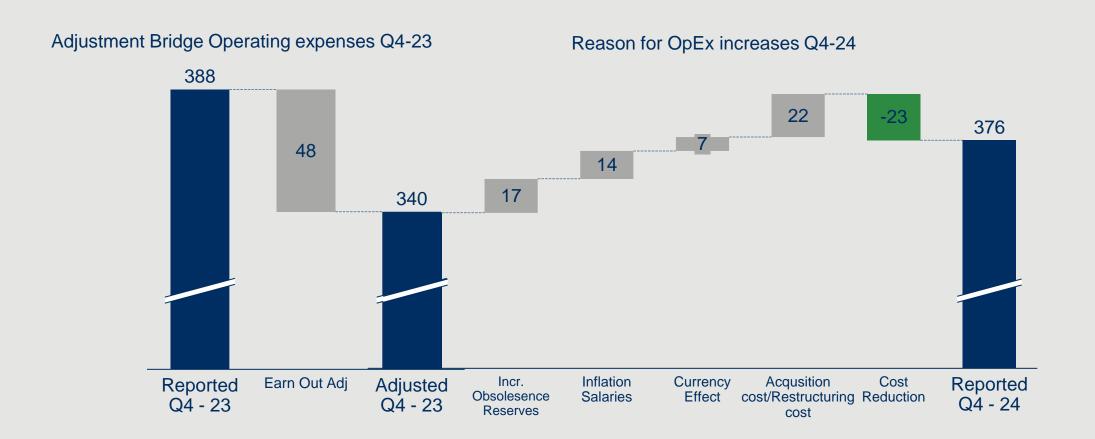
# High level of operating expenses due to one-offs and currency



- Higher level of operating expenses when adjusted for revaluation of additional purchase considerations in Q4 2023
- Mainly due to obsolescence reserves, the acquisition/divestment costs, restructuring costs and negative currency effects
- Underlying cost base under control
- Continued focus on cost control and savings throughout the business

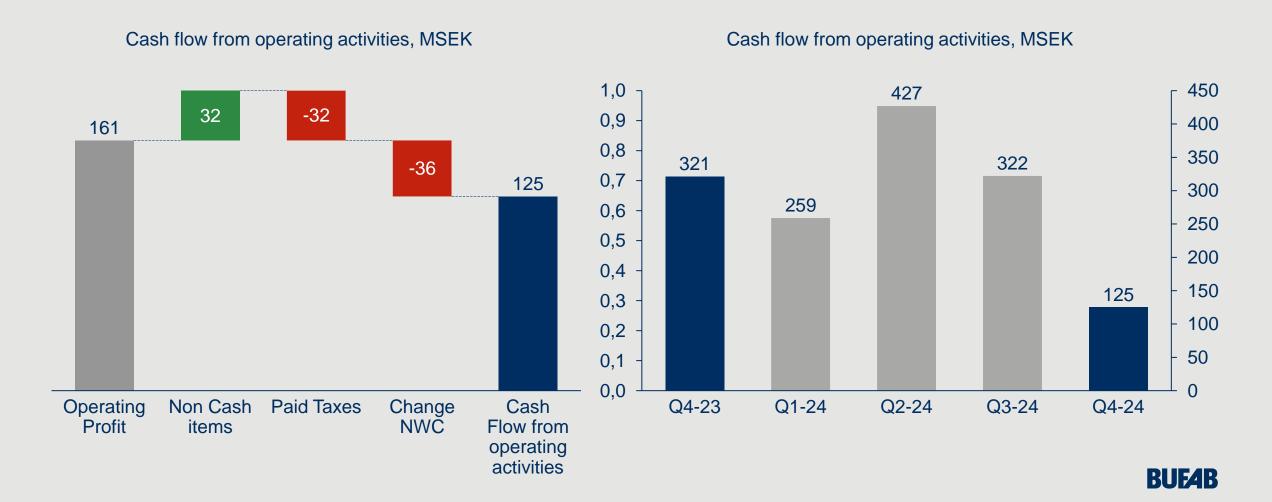


## **OpEx Bridge Q4-2023 vs-Q4 2024**

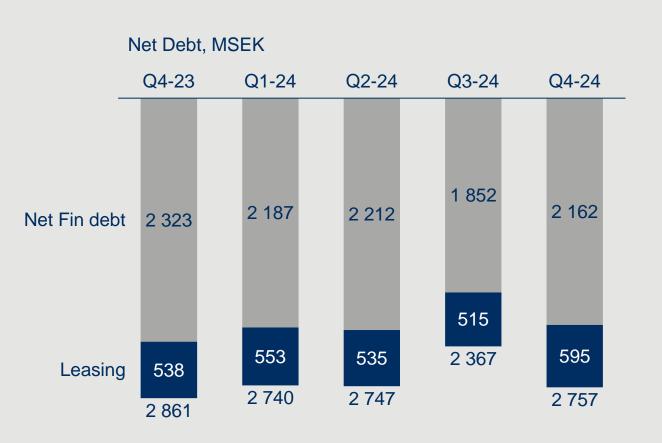




# Cash flow negatively impacted by investment in inventory



## Net debt increased to previous quarter mainly due to the acquisition of VITAL. Net debt/EBITDA was 2.8.









## **Europe North & East**

- Total growth was -12.4% and organic growth was -0.6%
- Continued weak demand in kitchens and bathrooms, while Tilka Trading saw strong demand
- Gross margin up 2.7 pp
- Higher share of OpEx mainly due to obsolescence reserves, negative currency effects, and inflation impacts
- Adjusted operating margin was 10.5% (12.8)







## **Europe West**

- Total growth amounted to 7.1% and the organic growth was -0.1%
- The energy industry continued to develop well, especially in Bufab France and Czech Republic, lower activity levels in automotive and construction
- Gross margin up 0.4 pp
- Share of OpEx in line with last year
- The adjusted operating margin improved to 11.1% (10.7)

#### DISCOVERING THE NEXT SOLUTIO



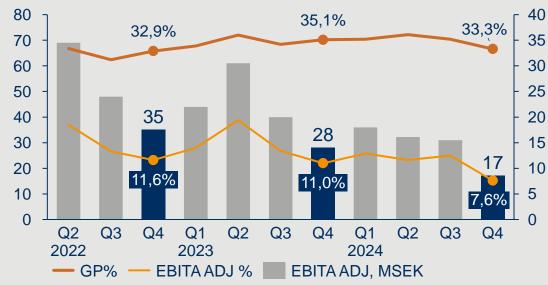




### **Americas**

- Total growth amounted to -13.3% and the organic growth was -11.3%
- Continued weak demand in in the mobile home and trailer segment, also the automotive segment
- Gross margin decreased by 1.8 pp due to price reduction for one customer
- Higher share of OpEx due to the lower sales
- The adjusted operating margin declined to 7.6% (11.0)
- The political situation in the US may impact business in the short term but we are well positioned







### **UK & Ireland**

- Total growth amounted to -0.5% and the organic growth was -5.1%
- Lower market prices in mainly Apex and TIMCO
- Gross margin decreased by 3.8 pp mainly due to higher global freight rates
- Share of OpEx in line with last year when adjusted for remeasurement of additional purchase considerations last year
- The adjusted operating margin was 9.0% (11.8)

#### DISCOVERING THE NEXT SOLUTION



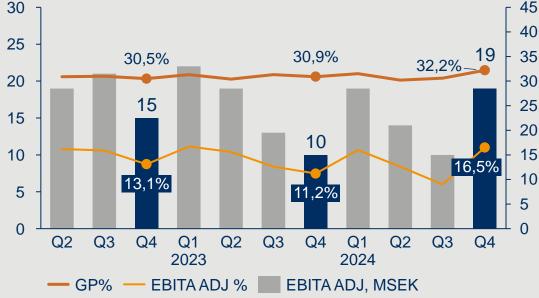




### **Asia-Pacific**

- Total growth amounted to 29.4% and the organic growth was 27.4%
- Strong demand in all companies, led by Kian Soon and Bufab Shanghai
- Gross margin improved by 1.3 pp
- Lower share of OpEx than last year
- The adjusted operating margin improved to 16.5% (11.2)









## Summary, Outlook & Priorities

- Improved gross margin in the quarter but lower results due to one-offs and currency. Acquisition of VITAL
- Uncertainty remains, however, indications of improved demand from the general industry
- Efforts to strengthen the gross margin and focus on cost control will put Bufab in a strong position once the market rebounds
- Continue to execute on our strategy Discovering the Next Solution
  - 1) Continue securing new business and taking market shares
  - 2) Improve our margin focused work on strengthening our gross margin and on cost savings
  - 3) Continuing improve our NWC and secure strong cash flow

