# MANAGEMENT MESSAGE

# **MESSAGE FROM THE CFO**

We will pursue future growth and improved profitability, aiming to realize sustainable corporate value enhancement. Masayuki Hoshi

Senior Executive Vice Presider Member of the Board and Chief Financial Officer



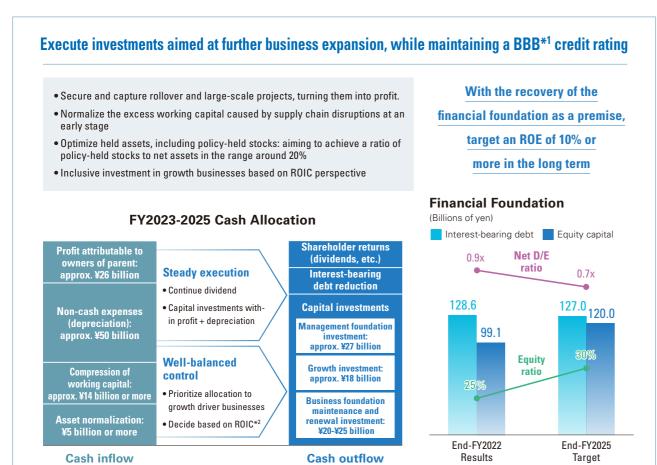
# **Reflections on FY2022**

Fiscal year 2022 was the final year of the previous Medium-Term Business Plan. We fell far short of the Plan with sales of 369.1 billion yen, operating income of 2.4 billion yen, and net loss of 2.8 billion yen for the fiscal year. Production delays due to shortages of semiconductors and other items as well as higher material prices resulted in higher-than-expected working capital requirements and negative free cash flow. Although structural reforms were effective in streamlining manufacturing and sales sites, mainly overseas, growth strategies remained a challenge. Positioning the period from fiscal year 2023 as the 1st Stage to steer toward growth, we will make all efforts to put our production recovery on track through measures undertaken in fiscal year 2022, improve our financial base including optimization of inventories, and effectively execute investments.

## Financial Strategy Under the Medium-Term Business Plan 2025

Under the Medium-Term Business Plan 2025, we will make investments for business expansion on the premise of

improving our financial base and maintaining a BBB credit rating. We have made inclusive investment in growth businesses based on an ROIC perspective, and clearly stated our cash allocation policy.



\*1 Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I)

\*2 ROIC:Introduce and trial in FY2023

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# **Cash Allocation Policy** Under the Medium-Term Business Plan 2025, we will first

Cash Flow Generation and

ensure cash inflow by recovering profitability, compressing working capital, and optimizing held assets.

#### **1** Recovery of Profitability

First, we will conduct shipments in a timely manner for rollover projects that could not be delivered in fiscal year 2022 due to impacts of the supply chain. In addition, for large new projects and demand for renewal for existing businesses with a high probability of receiving orders which we are preparing for, we will recover profitability via investing in aggressive plans in new business segments optimally reorganized based on the business value chain rearranged under the Medium-Term Business Plan 2025.

#### **2** Compression of Working Capital

By delivering products to customers, we will optimize our inventories, which have remained at a high level. We will work to normalize working capital as soon as possible, partly due to the effects of responding to alternative materials through design changes implemented in fiscal year 2022.

#### **3** Improvement of Asset Efficiency

We have been continuously reviewing all of our held assets, including policy-held stocks, and will continue to do so in the current fiscal year. The ratio of policy-held stocks to net assets is currently 31.4%, but we have set a target of 20% by the end of fiscal year 2025.

In order to recover our financial base, return profits to shareholders, and invest in growth, we will steer the company toward growth in accordance with the cash allocation policy established in the Medium-Term Business Plan.

#### Shareholder Return Policy

We consider it extremely important to pay stable dividends on an ongoing basis. In our Medium-Term Business Plan 2025, we set a target of a dividend payout ratio of 30% or more.

### Financial Soundness

Improving our financial base is a key issue in our Medium-Term Business Plan 2025. While maintaining a certain degree of leverage, we will work to achieve a shareholders' equity ratio of 30% and a NET D/E ratio of 0.7 or less as our benchmark by accumulating profits.

#### Growth Investment and ROIC

In order to create future businesses from fiscal year 2026 onward, we plan to invest a cumulative total of 65 to 70 billion



yen in capital investments under the Medium-Term Business Plan 2025. On the other hand, in order to achieve both a recovery of our financial base and a prioritized allocation of investment to growth driver businesses, management measures will be strengthened in the execution of the Plan. Specifically, we will classify investments into (1) Management foundation investment, (2) Growth investment, and (3) Business foundation maintenance and renewal investment, while keeping the total amount of investment within the range of "profit + depreciation," and will conduct operations that maximize returns by incorporating the concept of ROIC (return on invested capital) for each business.

#### Outlook for FY2023

For fiscal year 2023, the first year of the new Medium-Term Business Plan, we forecast net sales of 440 billion yen (up 70.9 billion ven YoY), operating income of 15 billion ven (up 12.6 billion yen YoY), ordinary income of 12.5 billion yen (up 12.8 billion yen YoY), and profit attributable to owners of parent of 8 billion yen (up 10.8 billion yen YoY).\* We expect a significant increase in each profit item as a result of a significant increase in the volume of materials due to improvements resulting from supply chain impact measures, which were prioritized in the previous fiscal year, as well as renewal demand for large-scale projects.

\*Our initial business forecast was revised on August 10 due to a court ruling in favor of our Chinese subsidiary.